

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN



1

INIO ASANO

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

1

Story and Art by INIO ASANO



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

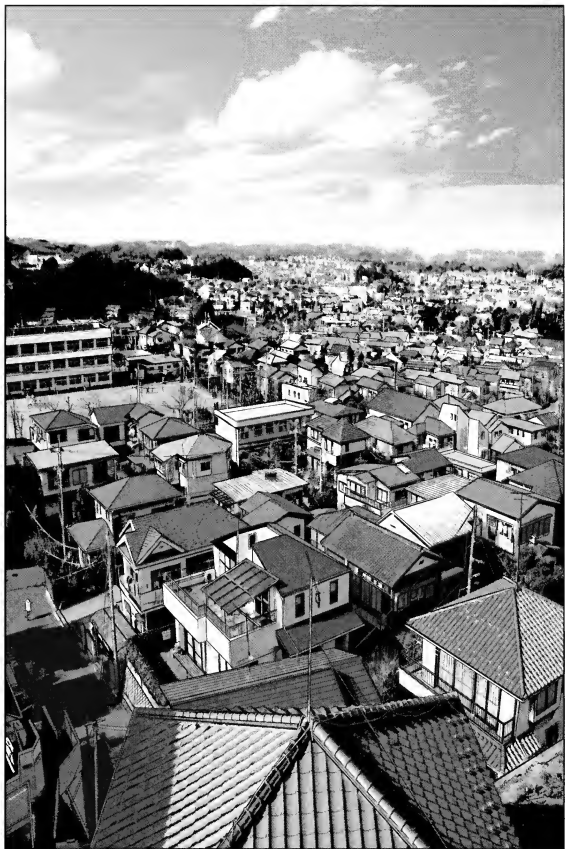
Part One

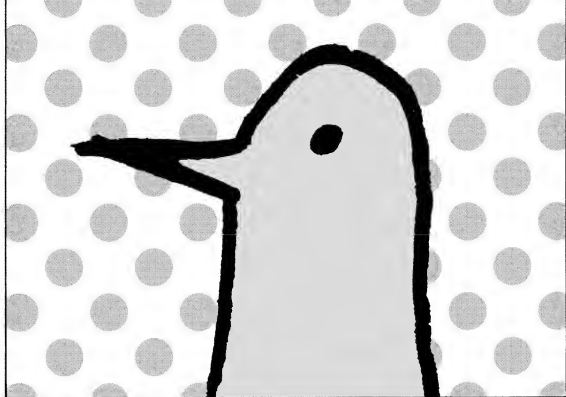


CONTENTS

		☆	☆	.
•	Chapter 1	5		
★	Chapter 2	31		
	Chapter 3	49		
✧	Chapter 4	73		
•	Chapter 5	89		
	Chapter 6	105		★
	Chapter 7	121		
	Chapter 8	139		.
	Chapter 9	155		
	Chapter 10	173		
	Chapter 11	191		
★	Chapter 12	207		





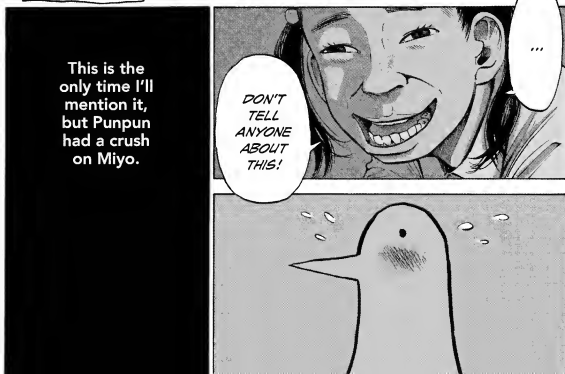


Today,
Punpun was
terribly
depressed
about going
to school...

...because
Miyo,
the class
sweetheart,
was
transferring
to another
school.

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
THE TIME
I SPENT
WITH ALL
OF YOU.







HEY,
DO YOU
GUYS KNOW
ABOUT SEX?

Monday
without
Miyo
would be
unbearably
boring!



I'M NOT
TELLING YOU,
KOMATSU!

SHH!
NOT SO
LOUD!

WHAT?
DID YOU
JUST
SAY
SEX?!



...A BOY
PUTS HIS
THING IN HIS
GIRLFRIEND'S
THING...

SEE...



PUNPUN,
DO YOU
KNOW...?



DON'T
LOOK SO
SHOCKED.



YOUR
CLASSMATE
MIYO OHTA
TRANSFERRED
TO ANOTHER
SCHOOL LAST
WEEK...

...AND NOW
WE HAVE
A NEW
FRIEND!
LET'S MEET
HER.

OKAY,
OKAY!

CLAP
CLAP

EVERYONE,
TAKE YOUR
SEATS!

Today's
Helper:
Haruno

...AND MY
NAME IS
AIKO
TANAKA.

I'M
FROM
NERIMA
PREFEC-
TURE...



It
was
love
at first
sight.



PSYCH!

OKAY,
NOW THAT
YOU'VE MET
THE NEW
STUDENT
...

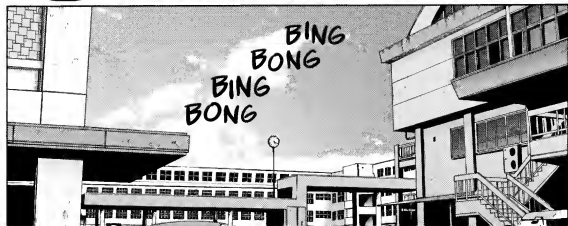
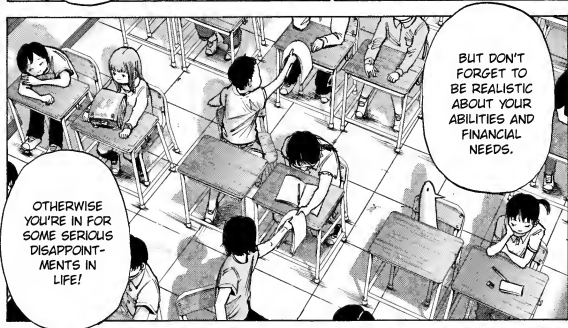
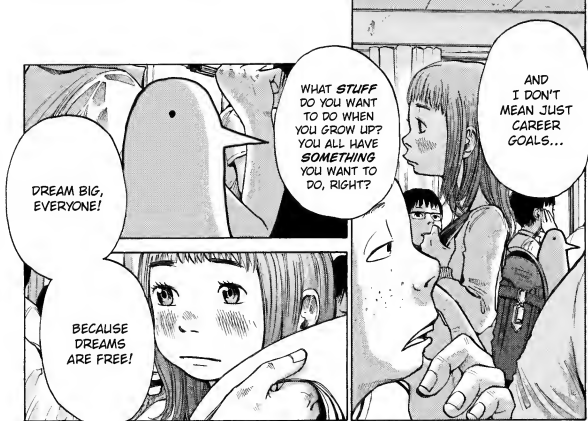
IF
YOU DON'T
FINISH IN
CLASS, IT'S
HOMEWORK
FOR
TOMORROW.

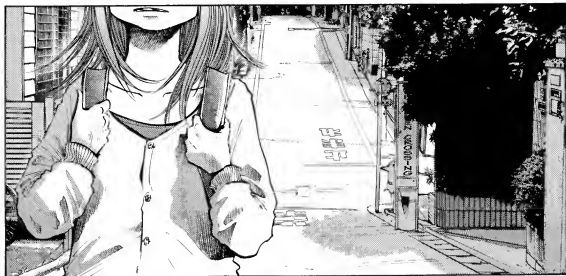
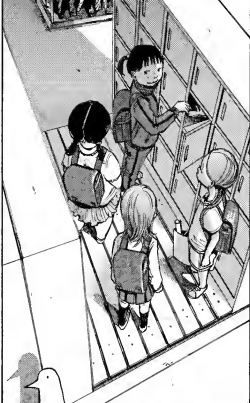
WRITE
AN ESSAY
INTRODUCING
YOURSELF AND
TELLING ME
ABOUT YOUR
DREAMS FOR
THE FUTURE.

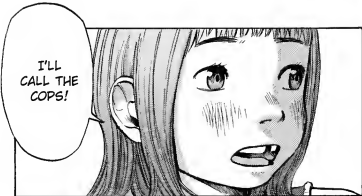
Huh?

...IT'S
TEST
TIME!

Huh?



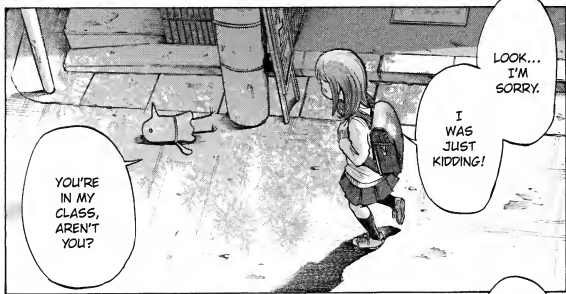
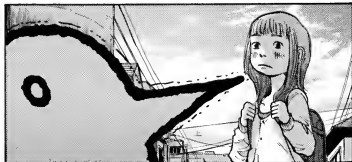




I'LL
CALL THE
COPS!



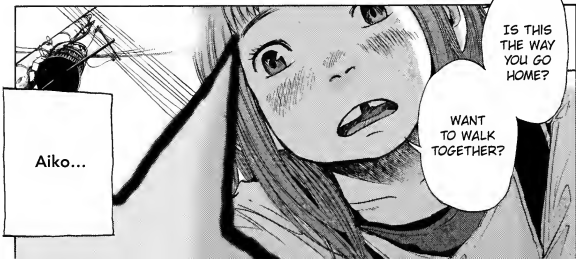
02-0000-70



LOOK...
I'M
SORRY.

I
WAS
JUST
KIDDING!

YOU'RE
IN MY
CLASS,
AREN'T
YOU?



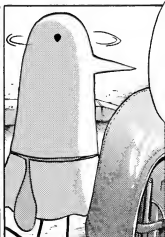
IS THIS
THE WAY
YOU GO
HOME?

WANT
TO WALK
TOGETHER?

Aiko...



I
FINISHED
MINE LIKE
THAT!



DID YOU
FINISH
YOUR
ESSAY,
PUNPUN?

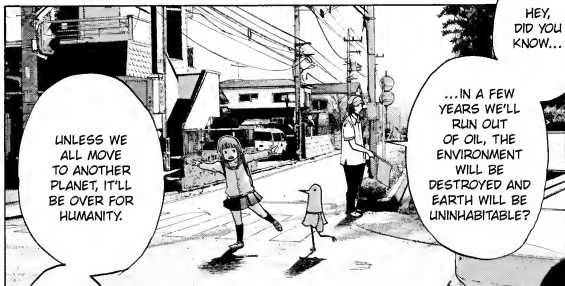
...smelled
very
nice.



BECAUSE I'M
GOING TO BE
AN ACTRESS,
A SINGER OR
A MODEL!



HEY,
DID YOU
KNOW...

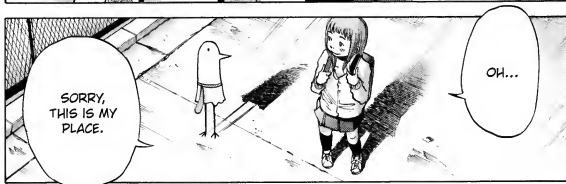


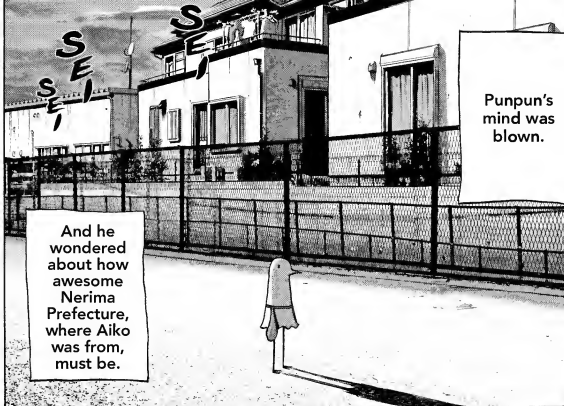
UNLESS WE
ALL MOVE
TO ANOTHER
PLANET, IT'LL
BE OVER FOR
HUMANITY.

...IN A FEW
YEARS WE'LL
RUN OUT
OF OIL, THE
ENVIRONMENT
WILL BE
DESTROYED AND
EARTH WILL BE
UNINHABITABLE?

DID YOU
KNOW
THAT?!

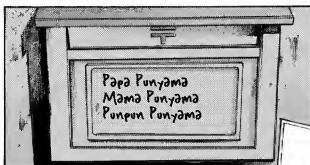






But he
fought
back the
tears.

And as he
pondered the
kind of adult
he would grow
up to be, Punpun
forgot the way
home and almost
started to cry.



OH,
OH...

IT'S
THE
BOTTOM
OF THE
NINTH...

...AND
THERE'S
A CHANCE
TO LOAD
THE
BASES!
CAN HE
DO IT!



YES!

RUN!
RUN!

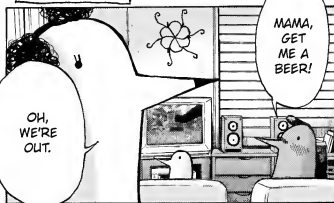
IT'S A
HIT!



NOW
THAT'S
WHAT I
CALL A
VICTORY
FOR THE
GIANTS!

He had never
actually played
baseball
before, but it
made Punpun
feel good to see
his father
enjoying the
live broadcasts.

Punpun's
dream
was to
play pro
baseball.



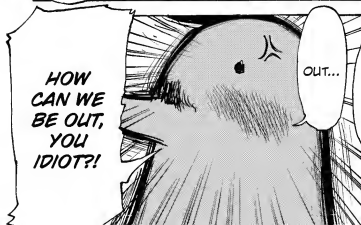
MAMA,
GET
ME A
BEER!

OH,
WE'RE
OUT.



But
sometimes
Punpun
found himself
questioning
whether that
really meant he
wanted to play
baseball.

A
GAME
LIKE
THAT...



HOW
CAN WE
BE OUT,
YOU
IDIOT?!

OUT...

...MAKES
ME WANT TO
HIT A HOME
RUN IN BED
TONIGHT!

God always came when he chanted "Dear God, dear God, tinkle hoy."

Uncle Yuichi, who lived in Ofuna, had taught him the chant.

Punpun said a prayer.

See, there He is.

POING

**What do
you want
from God,
Punpun?**



"Can't
Mom and
Dad get
along?"



Punpun
asked
God...

**Frankly,
I'm tired of
that subject.
Is there
anything
else?**



Don't rush it.
Think things over
carefully, because
the possibilities
are endless...

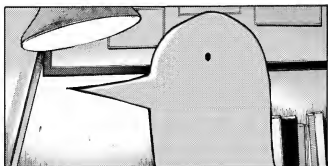
H
m
m
m

"I..."

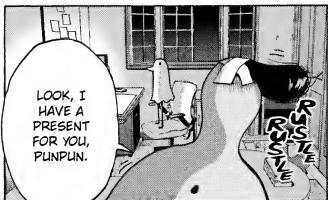
"I wonder
what I'll
be like
when I'm
an adult,"
thought
Punpun.

Just
don't grow
up to say
stuff like
that with
a straight
face...

...
PUNPUN!

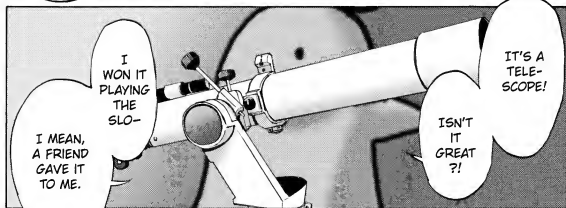


OH, I'M
SORRY.
ARE YOU
STUDYING?



LOOK, I
HAVE A
PRESENT
FOR YOU,
PUNPUN.

RUSTLE



I
WON IT
PLAYING
THE SLO-

I MEAN,
A FRIEND
GAVE IT
TO ME.

IT'S A
TELE-
SCOPE!

ISN'T
IT
GREAT
?!



NO
MATTER
HOW FAR
AWAY
IT IS,
EVERY-
THING...

...LOOKS
WITHIN
REACH
THROUGH
THIS, YOU
KNOW?

VEGA IS 27
LIGHT-YEARS
AWAY FROM
EARTH.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOU'RE
SEEING LIGHT
FROM 27
YEARS AGO.

THIS IS
AROUND
THE TIME...
YES! LOOK,
SEE THAT
TRIANGLE IN
THE EASTERN
SKY?

THE
STAR AT
THE VERY
TOP IS VEGA,
IN THE LYRA
CONSTELLA-
TION.

HMM?
CAN YOU
SEE
NERIMA
WITH
THIS?

NAH,
IT'S
PROBABLY
TOO
CLOSE.

I'LL
NEVER GO
TO OUTER
SPACE.

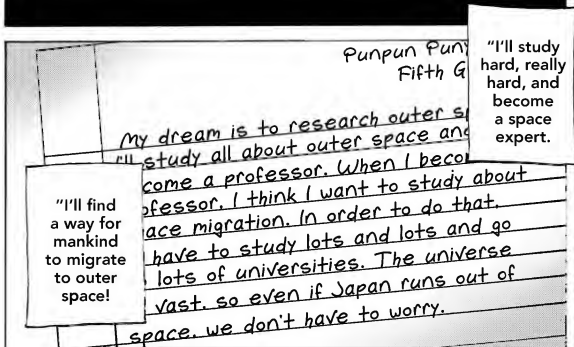
BUT
DREAMING
ABOUT IT IS
GREAT!

ANYWAY,
A MAN'S
GOT TO
DREAM
BIG!



A light
turned
on in
Punpun's
head.

"That's it.
I'll study
outer space."



Punpun Pun
Fifth G

"I'll study
hard, really
hard, and
become
a space
expert."

"I'll find
a way for
mankind
to migrate
to outer
space!"

My dream is to research outer space.
I'll study all about outer space and
become a professor. When I become
a professor, I think I want to study about
space migration. In order to do that,
I have to study lots and lots and go
to lots of universities. The universe
is so vast, so even if Japan runs out of
space, we don't have to worry.

PUNPUN,
HAVE YOU
DONE YOUR
HOMEWORK?

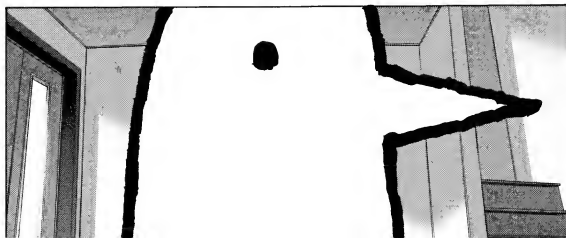
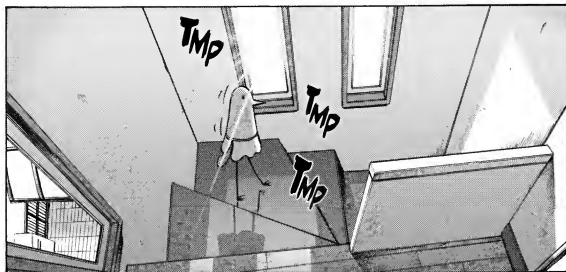
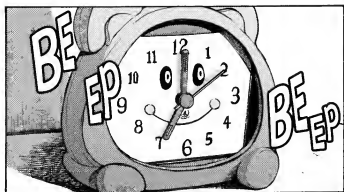
"Then..."

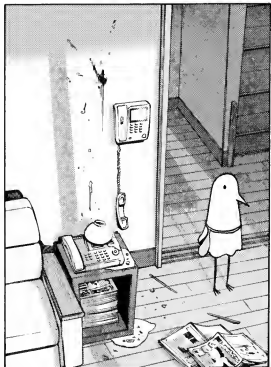
SHU X
SHU X
SHU X

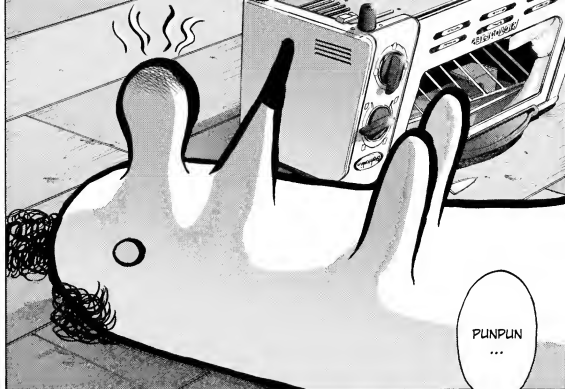
"I
think
that's
cool."

"...
maybe..."

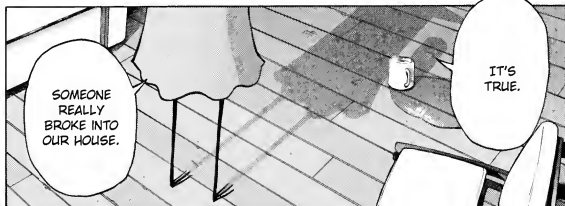
"...Aiko
will like
me!"





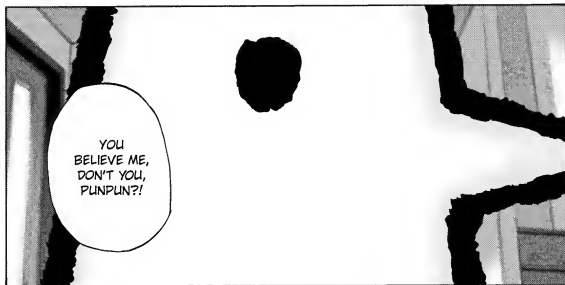


PUNPUN
...

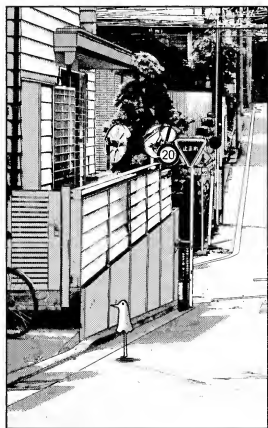


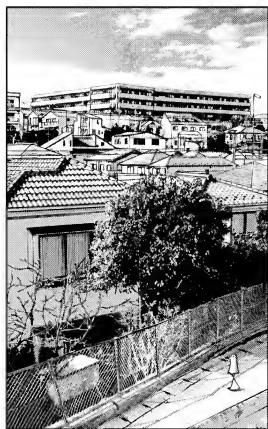
SOMEONE
REALLY
BROKE INTO
OUR HOUSE.

IT'S
TRUE.

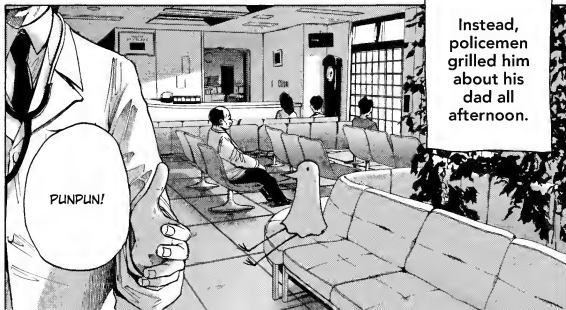


YOU
BELIEVE ME,
DON'T YOU,
PUNPUN?!





Punpun didn't go to school that day.



Instead, policemen grilled him about his dad all afternoon.

PUNPUN!



OKAY,
LET'S GO
HOME.



Uncle Yuichi
was his
mother's
younger
brother
and lived in
Ofuna with
Granny.

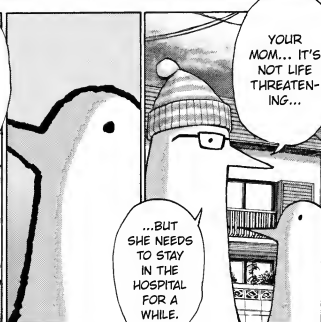
Uncle
Yuichi was
there to
pick up
Punpun.



DON'T
WORRY. I'LL
STAY WITH
YOU AT THE
HOUSE!

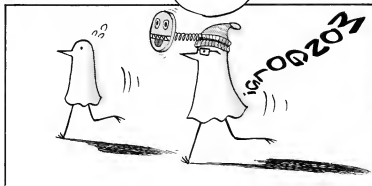
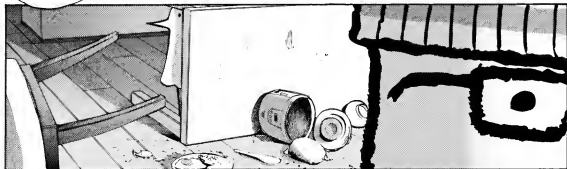
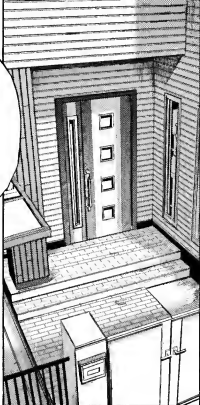
AT
LEAST BEING
UNEMPLOYED
IS GOOD FOR
SOMETHING
NOW! HA
HA...

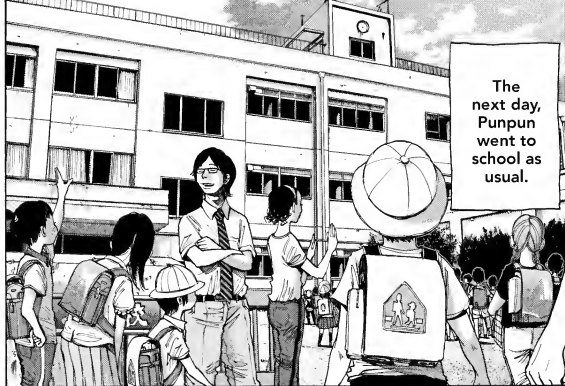
NOT
THAT IT'S
ANYTHING
TO LAUGH
ABOUT.



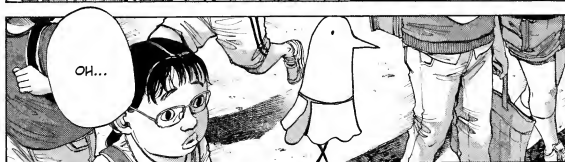
YOUR
MOM... IT'S
NOT LIFE
THREATEN-
ING...

...BUT
SHE NEEDS
TO STAY
IN THE
HOSPITAL
FOR A
WHILE.





The next day, Punpun went to school as usual.



OH...



As he expected, Aiko was already popular with the other students.



MORNING ...

H-HI, PUNPUN!



BUT
BEFORE
THAT...!

OKAY,
GOOD
MORNING,
EVERYONE!



PUNPUN!

DID YOU
FINISH THE
ESSAY I
ASSIGNED
TWO DAYS
AGO?

WE'RE DOING
LANGUAGE
ARTS FOR
THE FIRST
HOUR!



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

DON'T TELL
ME YOU
DIDN'T DO
IT?



Being called
on with no
warning made
Punpun a
little nervous.



EVERYONE
READ THEIR
ESSAYS TO
THE CLASS
YESTERDAY
MORNING.

SO NOW
LET'S HEAR
YOURS.

A
H
H
H
H
!

R
A
H
H
H
H
!



YOU
HAVE
TO DO
YOUR
HOME-
WORK!



AHHH!

YOU
HAVE
TO DO
IT, NO
MATTER
WHAT!!

YOU
SHOULD
KNOOOOW
THAT!



**WHAT
THE
HELL
IS
FAIR,
ANY-
WAY?!**

BUT IT'S
UNFAIR TO
MAKE AN
EXCEPTION.
RIGHT?

WE
ALL HAVE
BURDENS
TO
SHOULDER.

I
KNOW
THAT.

WE
HAVE
TO BE
FAIR...

**GYA
AAA
AAA
AAH!**

**NOO
OOO
OO!**

DON'T
GET
COCKY
JUST
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
KIDS!

I
THINK
PUNPUN
DID HIS
HOME-
WORK...

SIR...

Homework
Punpun
My dragon is the research paper
I wrote. It's about the world's
most powerful and beautiful
creature. I hope it's good.







Punpun's dream
was to become
a space expert
and help people
emigrate to
another planet.



WHAT'S
YOUR
DREAM,
PUNPUN?

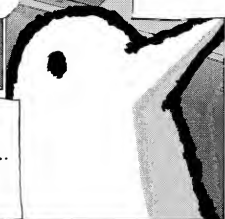
OKAY
...

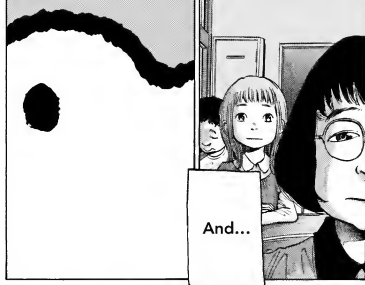
Punpun
had every
confidence
in his
plans.

But
what
if...

Punpun's
Fifth Grade
is to research outer space.
about outer space and
professor. When I become a
I think I want to study about
gration. In order to do that,
study lots and lots and go
universities. The universe
so even if Japan runs out of
e, we don't have to worry.

But...





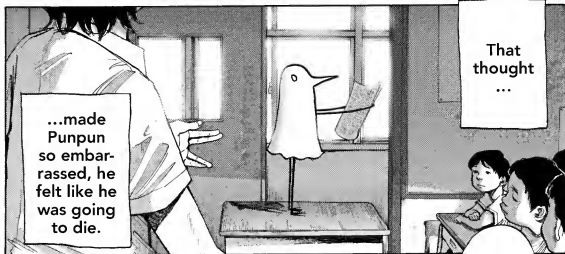
And...



...someone
in class
pointed out
that it was
impossible
and made
fun of
him...?



...Aiko was
watching!



...made
Punpun
so embar-
rassed, he
felt like he
was going
to die.

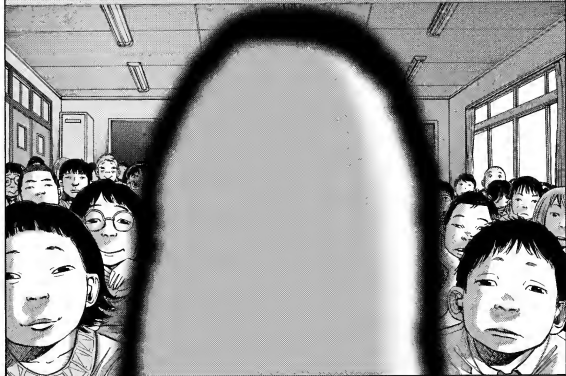
That
thought
...



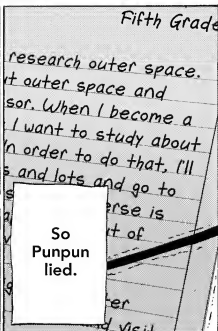
SPEAK UP
SO WE CAN
ALL HEAR!

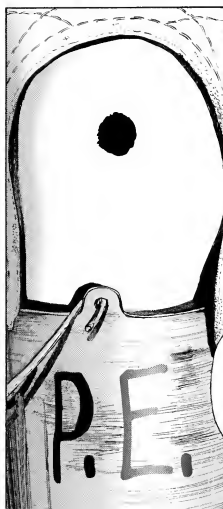
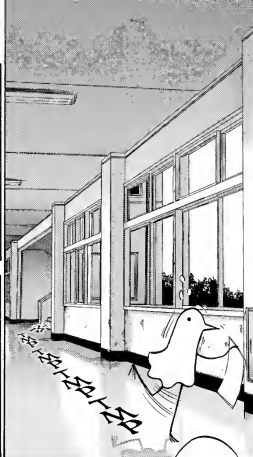
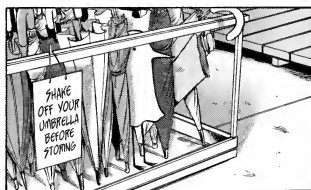
**CLAP
CLAP**

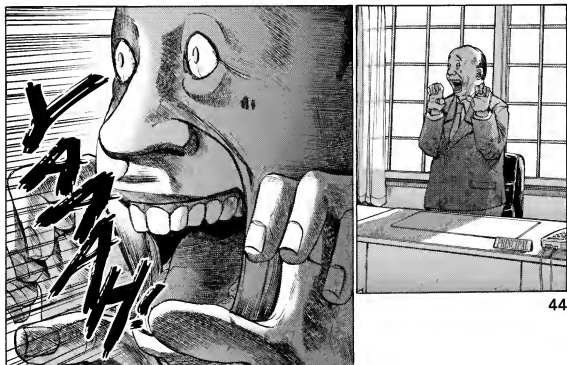
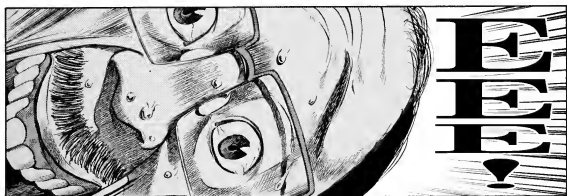
OKAY,
PUNPUN!



"My dream is
to work in an
average office
and have
an average
family."









I HEARD
MY MOM
TALKING
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
WITH HIS DAD.
THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHY.



PUNPUN
WAS ACTING
WEIRD.



IS THERE
SOMETHING
WE CAN DO
TO MAKE HIM
FEEL
BETTER?



I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
TO SAY TO
PUNPUN THIS
MORNING.



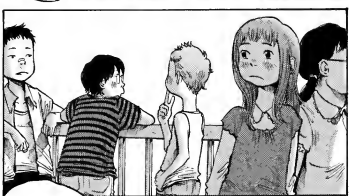
ME
NEITHER.



THE
POLICE ARE
HOLDING
PUNPUN'S
DAD, RIGHT?



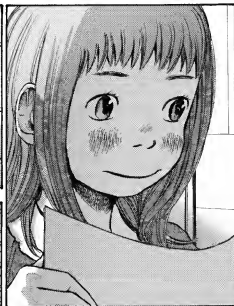
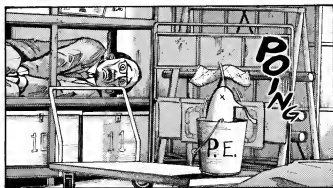
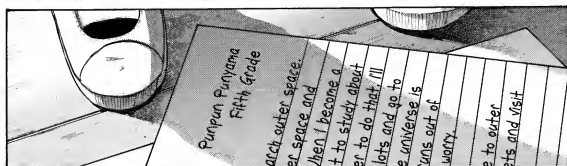
BECAUSE
THEY THINK
HE CAUSED
ALL THAT
DAMAGE?

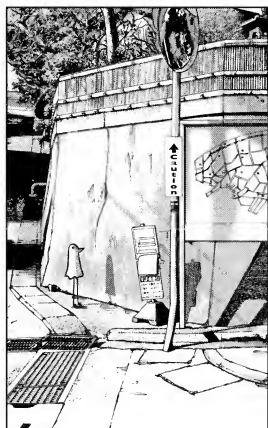


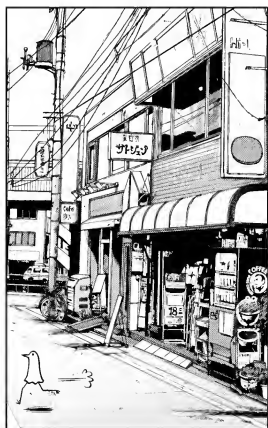
WHY NOT
TREAT HIM
NORMALLY?

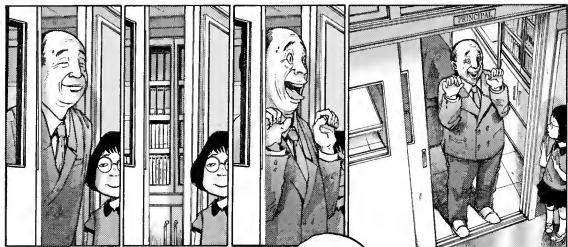


WHAT'S
"NORMAL"
ANYWAY?



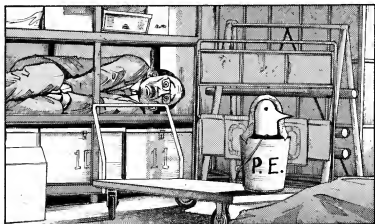






WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
MR. MORI?
YOU SHOULD
ALL BE IN
CLASS.



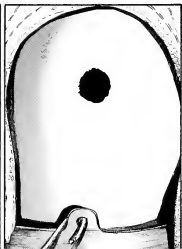


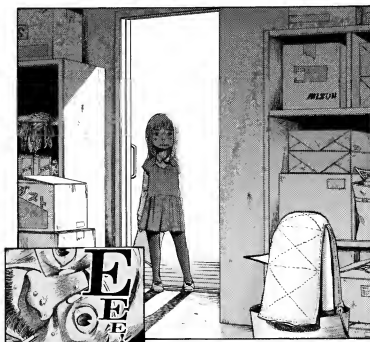
Punpun
was
deep in
thought.

He
wondered
if helping
mankind
emigrate
to another
planet was
an impossible
dream for him.

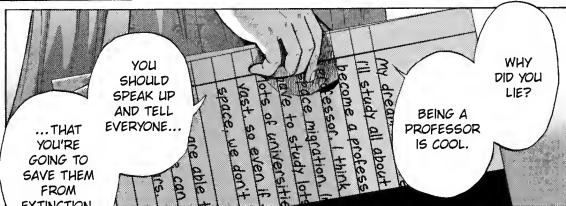
He
was so
confused...

...he wasn't
even sure if
he wanted
to become a
space expert
anymore.





PUNPIN!

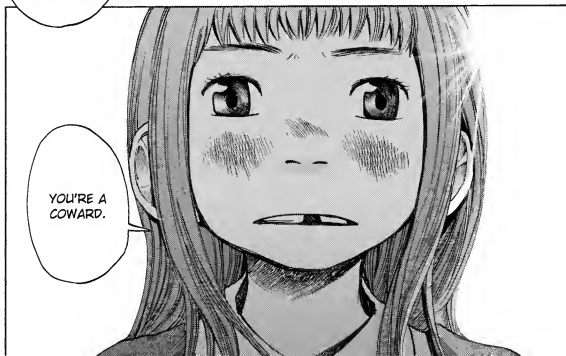


YOU SHOULD
SPEAK UP
AND TELL
EVERYONE...

...THAT
YOU'RE
GOING TO
SAVE THEM
FROM
EXTINCTION.

BEING A
PROFESSOR
IS COOL.

WHY
DID YOU
LIE?



YOU'RE A
COWARD.



SO LET
THEM!

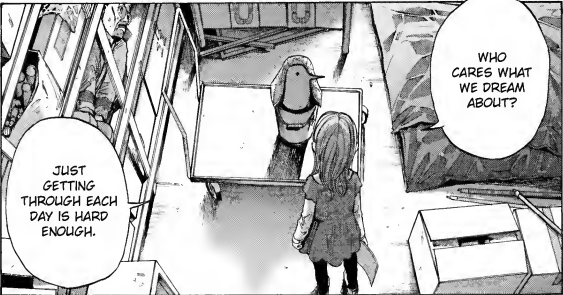
YOU WERE
SCARED THEY
WERE GOING
TO LAUGH AT
YOU, RIGHT?



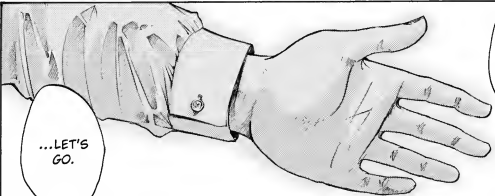
PEOPLE WHO
DISCOURAGE
OTHERS WILL
NEVER FIND
THEIR OWN
HAPPINESS!



WHO
CARES WHAT
WE DREAM
ABOUT?

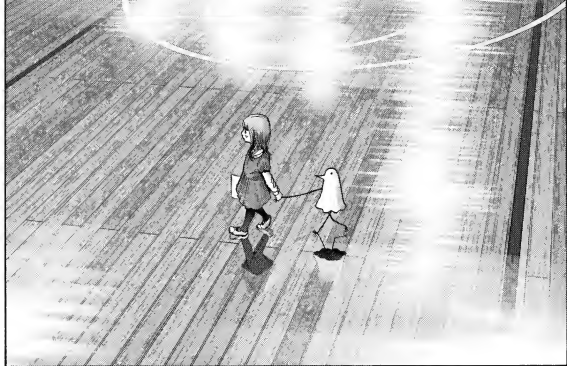


JUST
GETTING
THROUGH EACH
DAY IS HARD
ENOUGH.



...LET'S
GO.

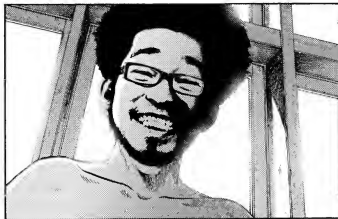
COME
ON...



These were
the thoughts
that crossed
Punpun's
mind.

...and
so
small.

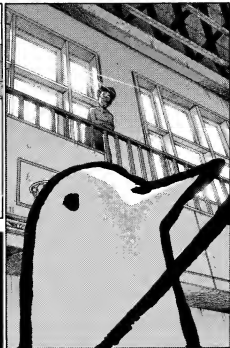
Aiko's
hand felt
soft and
warm...

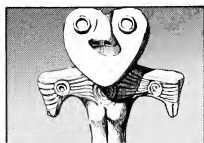
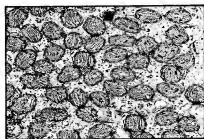


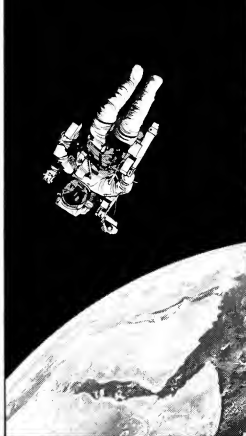
...to let
go of her
hand.

...that
he didn't
want...

And
he also
thought...

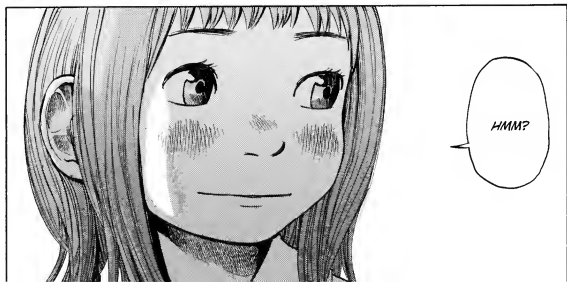
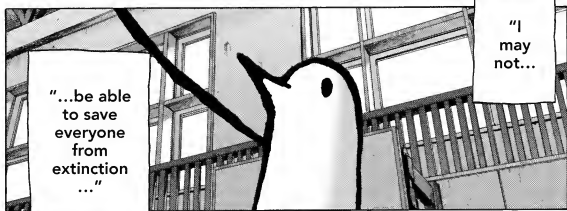


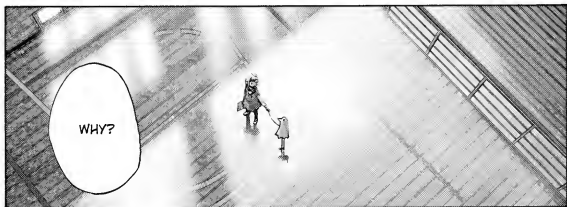
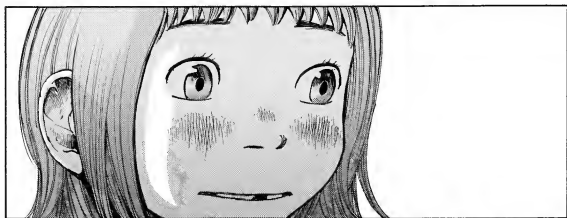
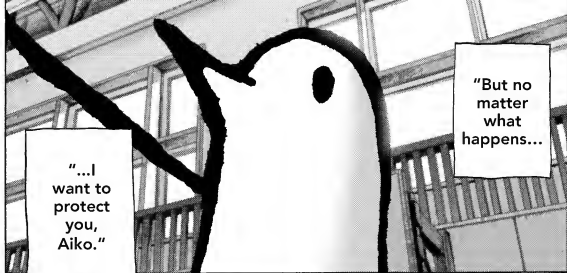




...over
and over
again.

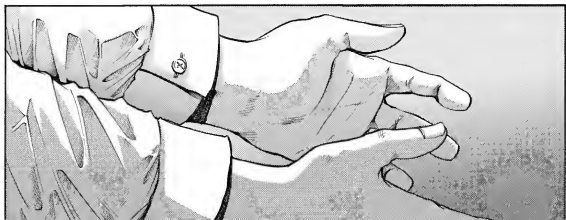
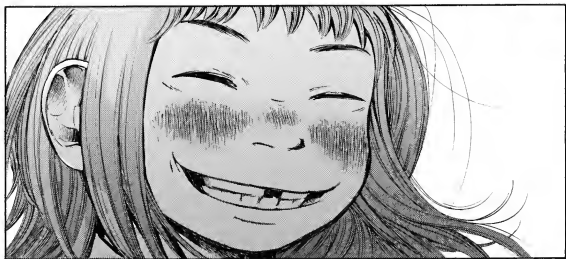
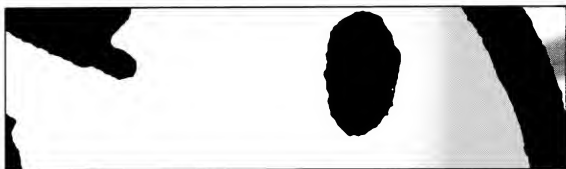
One
thing ran
through
Punpun's
head...

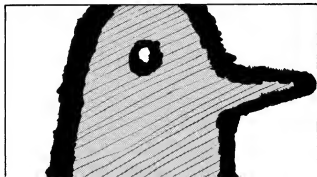
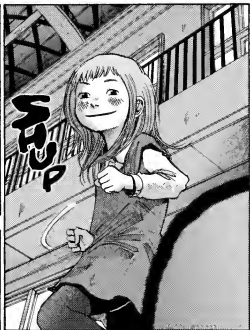
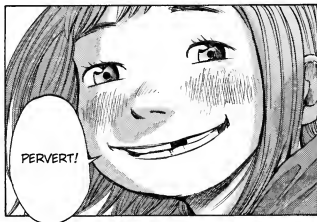


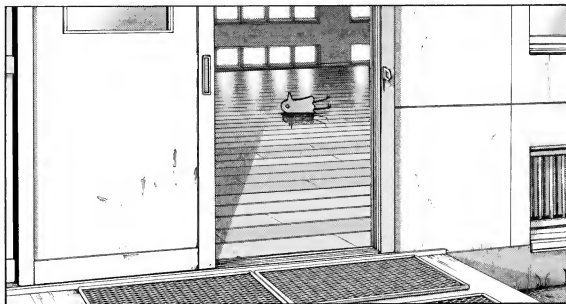


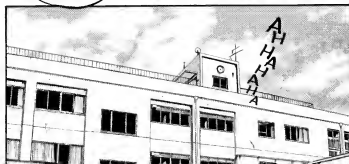
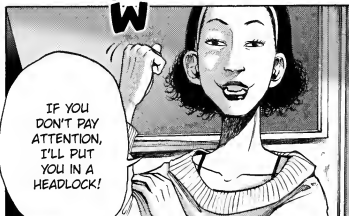
"Because
I love
you."











...he
felt like
he was
going
to fly
away.

Give
me

You
to

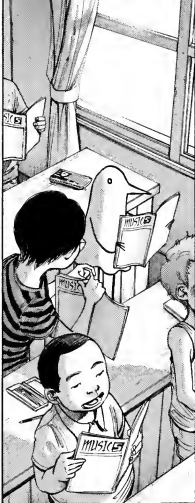
I'd
Wish
for

His
heart was
beating
so fast...

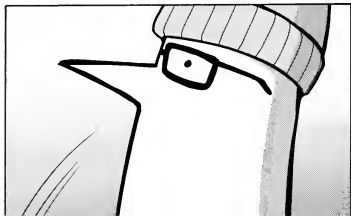
Wings

...
PUN.

PUNPUN!



*PWC=Porn Watchers' Club

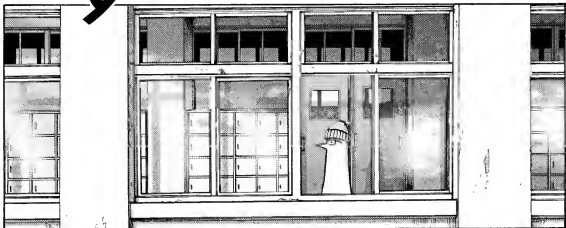




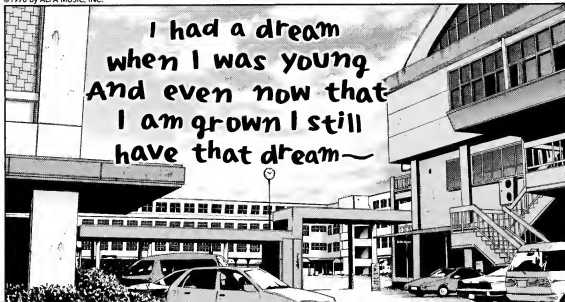




I want to



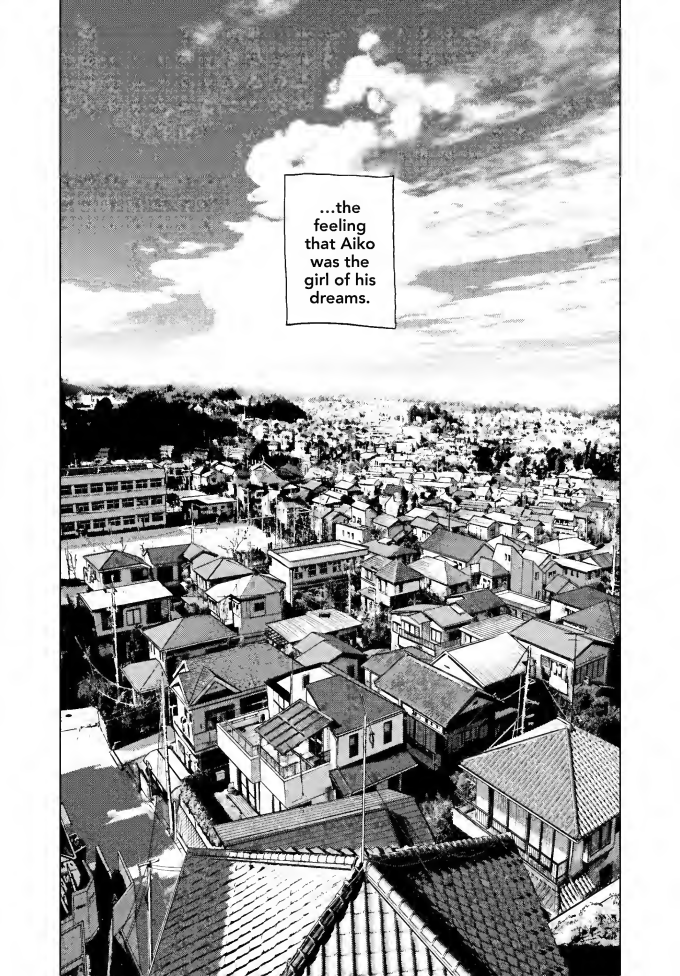
©1970 by ALFA MUSIC, INC.





He was still young, so this was the first time Punpun had ever experienced this particular feeling.

It was...

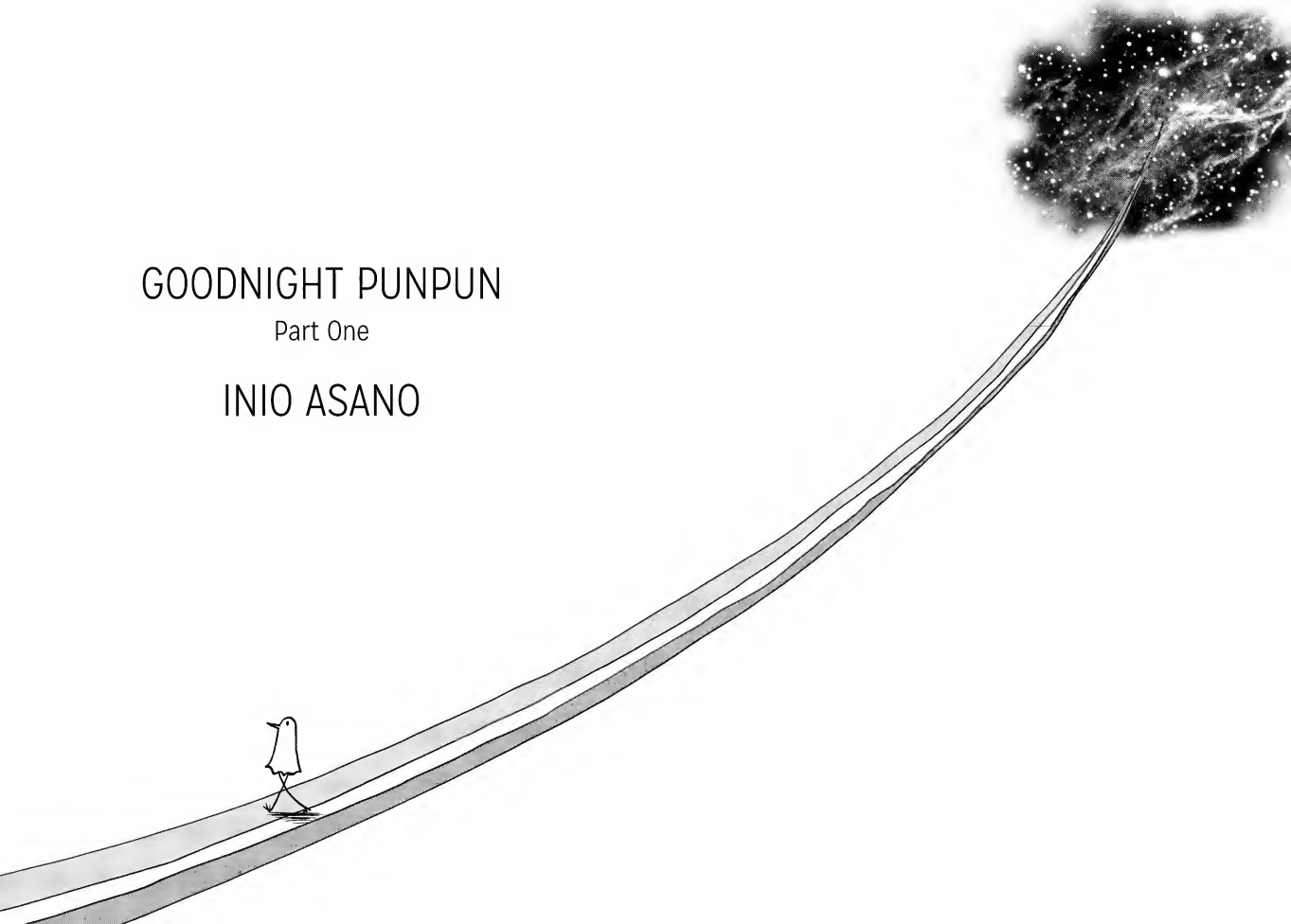


...the
feeling
that Aiko
was the
girl of his
dreams.

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part One

INIO ASANO







GOOD
MORNING,
PUNPUN.

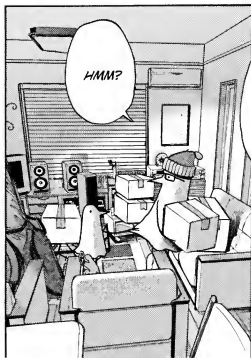
Today
was a
happy
day, a
day to
celebrate.



PARTLY
BECAUSE MY
PARENTS ARE
GETTING TIRED
OF THEIR
UNEMPLOYED
SON LIVING
AT HOME,
BUT—

CAN YOU
HELP ME
UNPACK?

YOUR
MOM AND I
TALKED IT
OVER, AND I'LL
BE LIVING
HERE FOR
A WHILE.



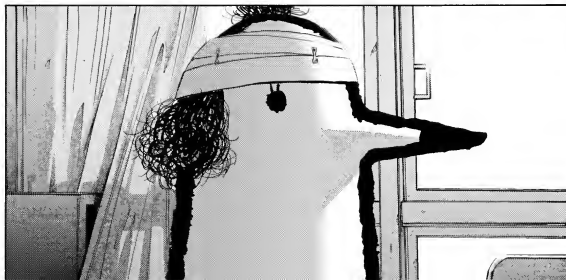
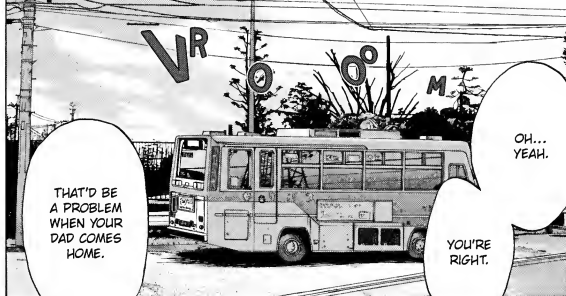
HMM?

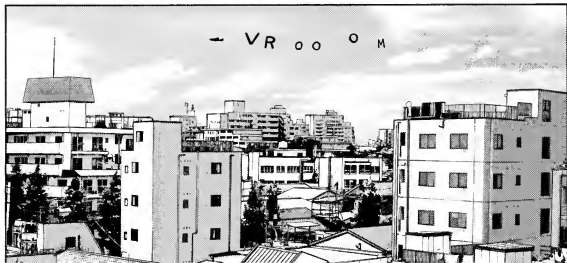
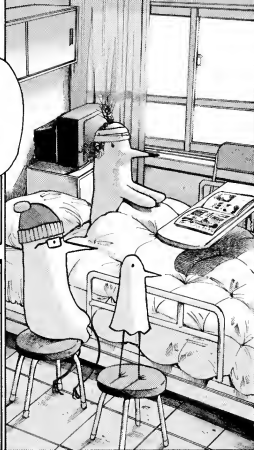


...JUST PUT
THE SMALL
BOXES IN
YOUR DAD'S
OFFICE.

ANYWAY
...





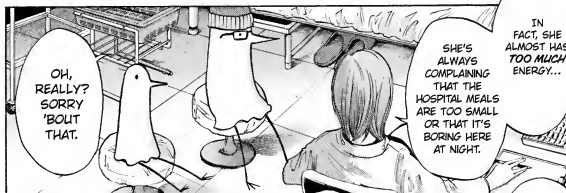




SHE HIT THE
BACK OF HER
HEAD WHEN SHE
FELL AND NEEDED
A FEW STITCHES,
BUT WE HAVEN'T
FOUND ANY
EVIDENCE OF
BRAIN TRAUMA.

MRS.
PUNYAMA'S
FOREHEAD
LACERATION
IS HEALING
NICELY.

I'D LIKE TO
RUN A FEW
MORE TESTS,
BUT I'M SURE
WE WON'T FIND
ANYTHING.



OH,
REALLY?
SORRY
'BOUT
THAT.

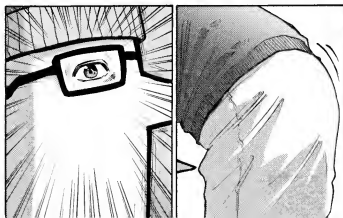
SHE'S
ALWAYS
COMPLAINING
THAT THE
HOSPITAL MEALS
ARE TOO SMALL
OR THAT IT'S
BORING HERE
AT NIGHT.

IN
FACT, SHE
ALMOST HAS
TOO MUCH
ENERGY...



YOUR
MOM WILL
BE ABLE TO
GO HOME
SOON!

YOU
MUST
BE MRS.
PUN-
YAMA'S
SON!



...didn't
love his
mother
very
much.



Punpun...

I
GUESS
SHE'S
BEING HER
USUAL
DIFFICULT
SELF.



HMM
...

Punpun
wished she
wasn't
coming
home just
yet.



She
constantly
nagged at him
about home-
work, brushing
his teeth,
taking a bath,
cleaning up
and all that
other stuff.

FORGET
IT,
FORGET
IT!

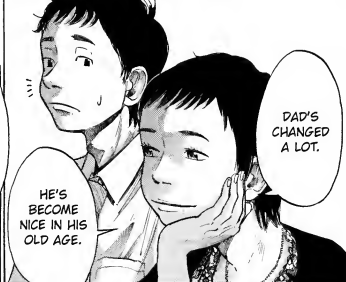






I GUESS
HE'S BEEN
LONELY
SINCE MOM
DIED.

I
FOUND
IT!



DAD'S
CHANGED
A LOT.

HE'S
BECOME
NICE IN HIS
OLD AGE.



HE USED
TO BE SO
HARDHEADED.
I WAS
AFRAID
OF HIM.



HERE,
TAKE
THEM!

I WENT
AROUND TO
ALL THE
SHRINES TO
COLLECT
GOOD-LUCK
CHARMS!



THANK
YOU!

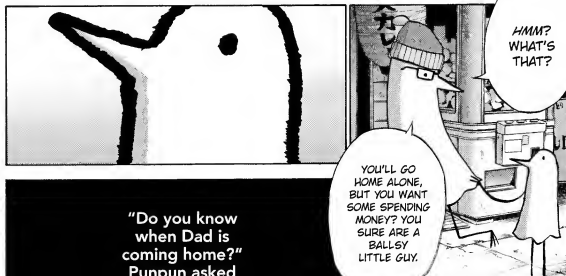
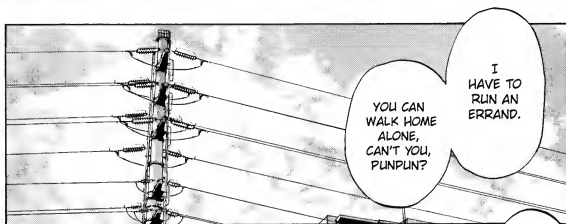
WHAT
MUST THE
GODS BE
THINKING?

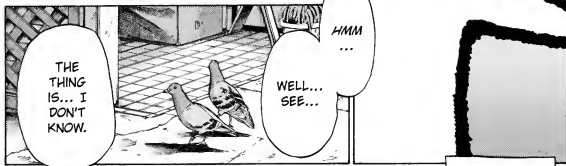
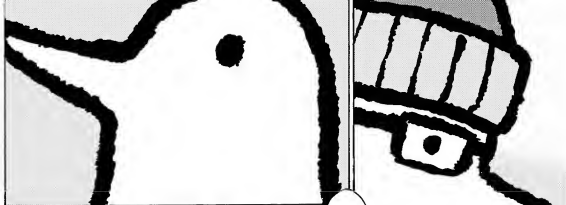


SERI-
OUSLY
...



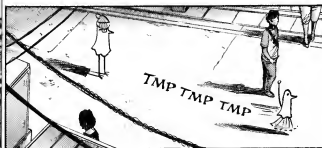
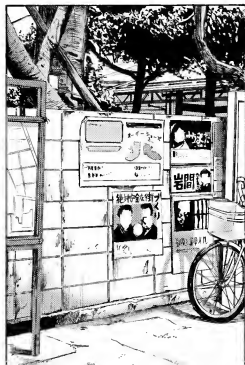
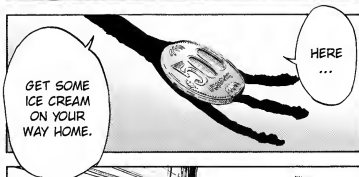








"Dear God,
dear God,
tinkle hoy"
was a chant
Uncle Yuichi
had taught
Punpun three
years ago.

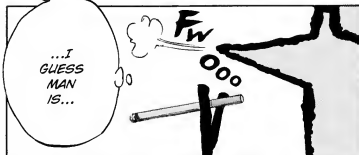




IT
REALLY
DOESN'T
MATTER TO
ME, BUT...

DID GOD
CREATE
MAN? OR
DID MAN
CREATE
GOD?

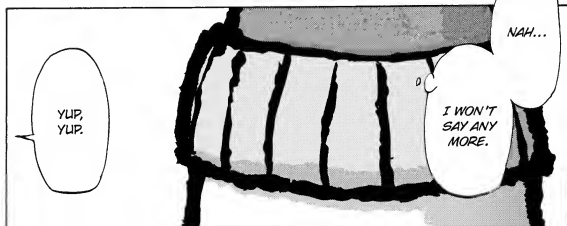
GOD,
HUH...



...I
GUESS
MAN
IS...



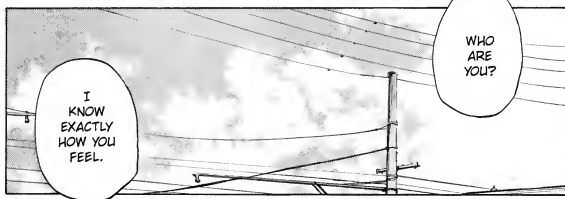
HUMANS
ARE...

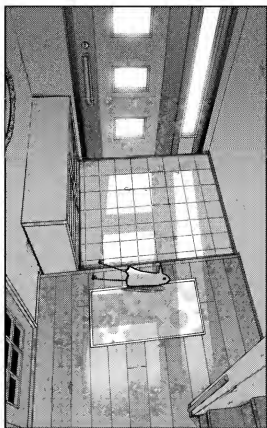


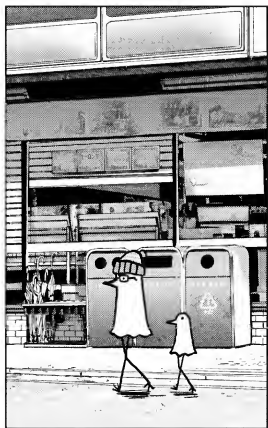
YUP,
YUP.

NAH...

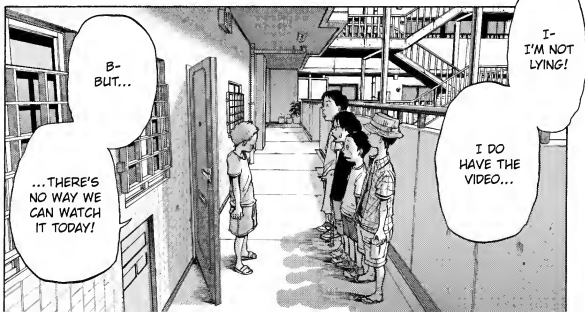
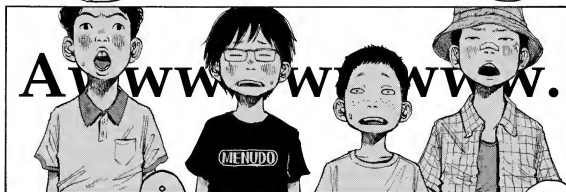
I WON'T
SAY ANY
MORE.

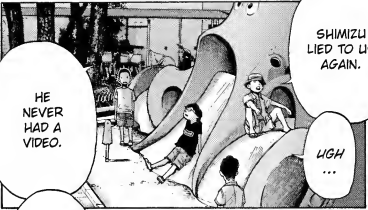












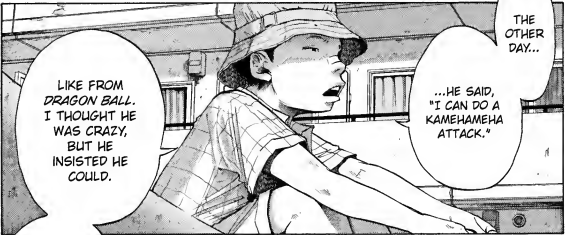
HE
NEVER
HAD A
VIDEO.

SHIMIZU
LIED TO US
AGAIN.

UGH
...



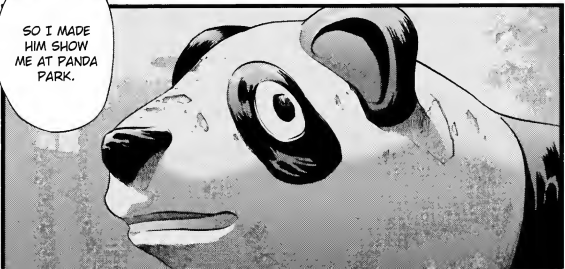
NAH... WE
SHOULDN'T
JUMP TO
CONCLUSIONS.



LIKE FROM
DRAGON BALL.
I THOUGHT HE
WAS CRAZY,
BUT HE
INSISTED HE
COULD.

THE
OTHER
DAY...

...HE SAID,
"I CAN DO A
KAMEHAMEHA
ATTACK."



SO I MADE
HIM SHOW
ME AT PANDA
PARK.



ANYWAY,
HE KEPT
TRYING FOR
AN HOUR...

DID HE?!

...UNTIL HE
STARTED
CRYING AND
SAID HE WAS
HAVING A BAD
DAY.

AS IF...
WHAT A
LIAR!



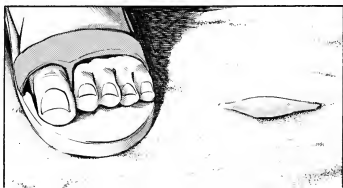
WHAT'LL
WE DO?
HOW ABOUT
PHA?*

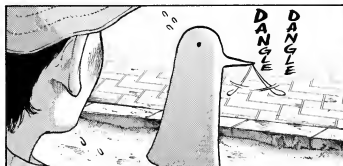
THIS
IS SO
STUPID.
WHAT A
WASTED
SATURDAY.

*PHA=Porn Hunters' Alliance



SHIMIZU'S
NOT WORTH
IT ANYMORE.
WE'RE
WRITING
HIM OFF!





FOUND
ONE!

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

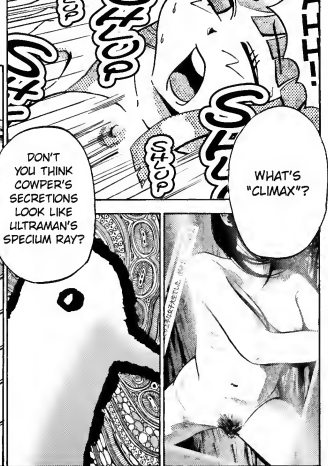
U-
UGH
...

BUT IT'S
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING!

LOOKS
PRETTY...
USED.

HARUMIN,
DON'T YOU
WANNA SEE
THE SEXY
PHOTOS?







"It's
Aiko!"

J-JUST
SHUT
UP!

AND... YOU
KNOW HOW
KIDS CAN'T
TRAVEL
ALONE?

W-WELL,
WE'RE PLAN-
NING A TRIP
FOR SUMMER
VACATION
...

AND GET
LOST!

SO
ANYWAY...
RIGHT,
PUNPUN?

MENUDO

WHY'RE YOU
SNEAKING
AROUND?



DON'T
BELIEVE
THESE
BOYS!

AIKO!



A
TRIP...
THAT
SOUNDS
GREAT.



I
HATE
BOYS.

I
WISH I
COULD GO
SOMEWHERE
TOO.

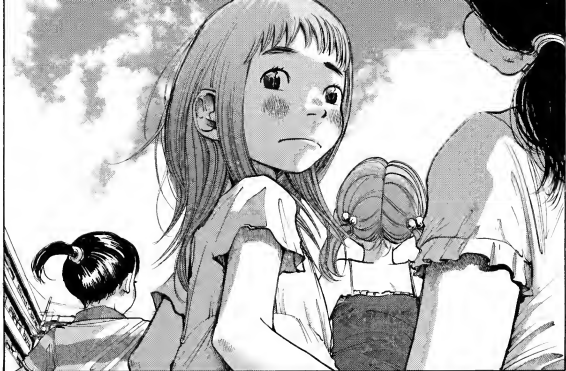


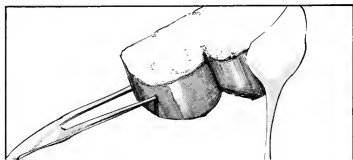
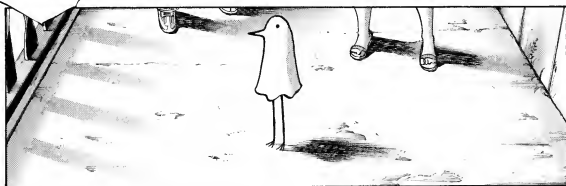
LET'S
JUST
LEAVE
THEM
ALONE.

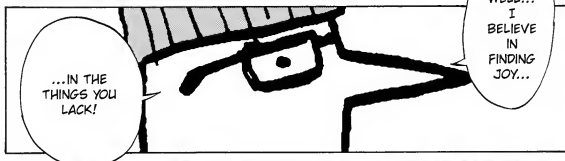
IF YOU
LIED TO
US, YOU'RE
GONNA GET
IT LATER!

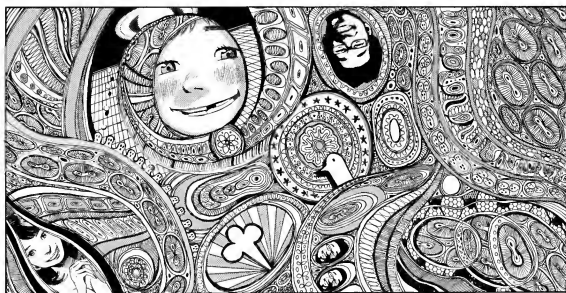
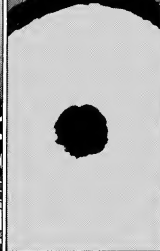
THAT
RERUN OF
THE SHOW
WITH
SHIMUTAKU'S
GONNA START
SOON.

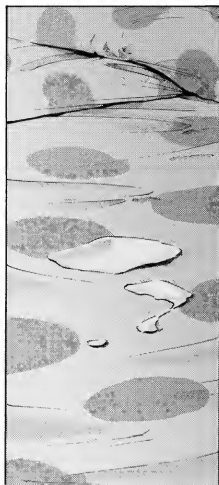


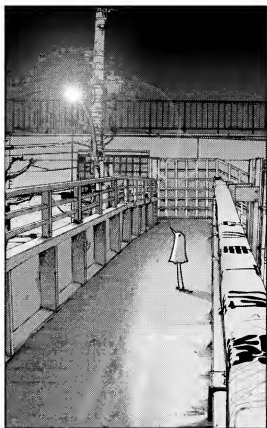


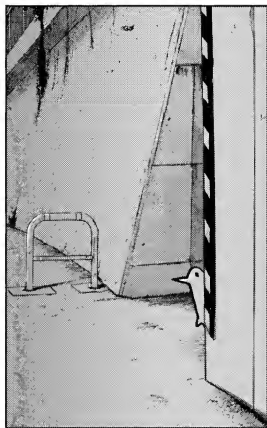


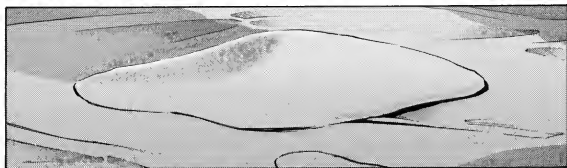












Punpun
was utterly
certain that...



Chapter 6



My
brain!

My brain
Squirted
out of my
Weiner!!

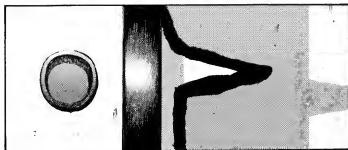




A
MEDICAL
DICTIONARY?



SURE, I
HAVE ONE.



...Punpun
asked.

"Do
you die
if your
brain
melts?"

BUT
WHAT
FOR?





"Is it possible for your brain to melt and squirt out of a weird place?"

Punpun mustered up all his courage and asked...

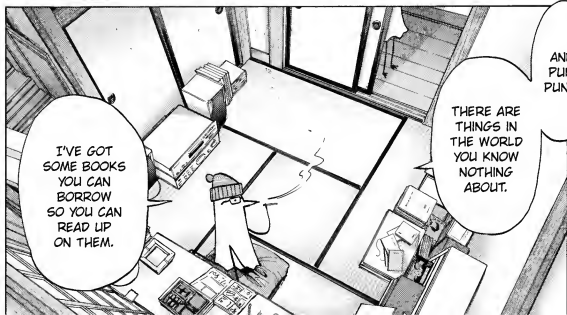
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT HAPPENING, BUT I ASSUME SO.



DON'T WORRY, PUNPUN, YOU WON'T DIE.

I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON. MMM...

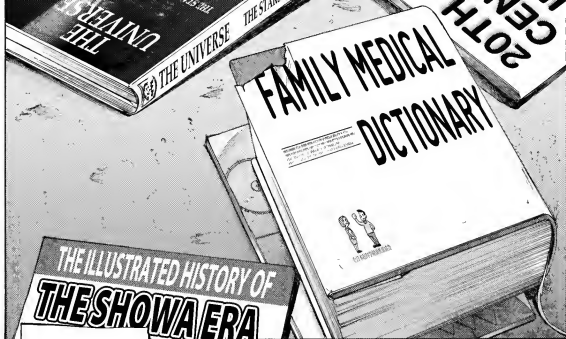
...AH-HA.



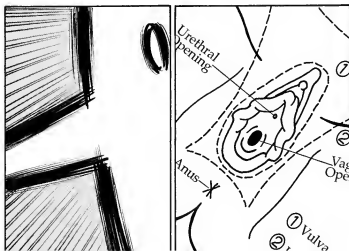
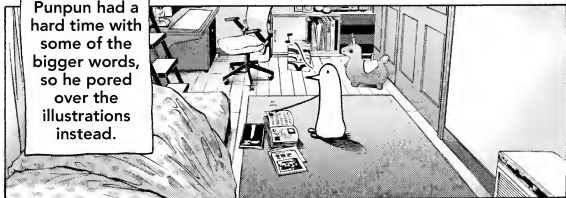
I'VE GOT SOME BOOKS YOU CAN BORROW SO YOU CAN READ UP ON THEM.

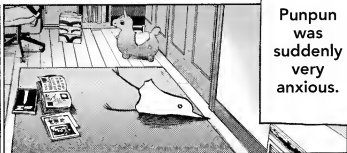
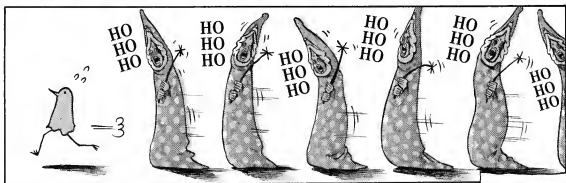
AND, PUN-PUN...

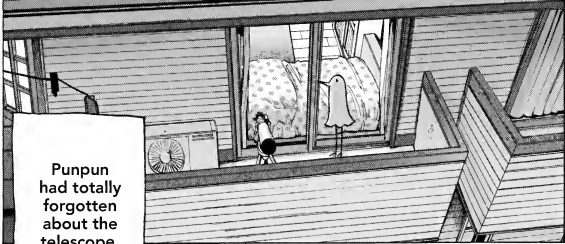
THERE ARE THINGS IN THE WORLD YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.



Punpun had a hard time with some of the bigger words, so he pored over the illustrations instead.

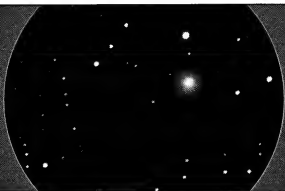






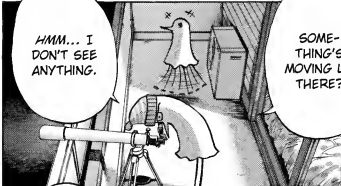
Punpun
had totally
forgotten
about the
telescope.

A black and white manga panel showing Punpun, a small bird-like character, standing on a windowsill at night. He is looking out a window at a city skyline. A bed with a polka-dot pillow is visible inside the room. An air conditioner is mounted on the wall to the left of the window.



"It
moved!"

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of Punpun's face. He has a wide-eyed, shocked expression with sweat droplets flying off his head. In the foreground, a telescope is pointed towards him, with light rays emanating from its lens, suggesting he has just observed something unexpected.



HMM... I
DON'T SEE
ANYTHING.

SOME-
THING'S
MOVING UP
THERE?

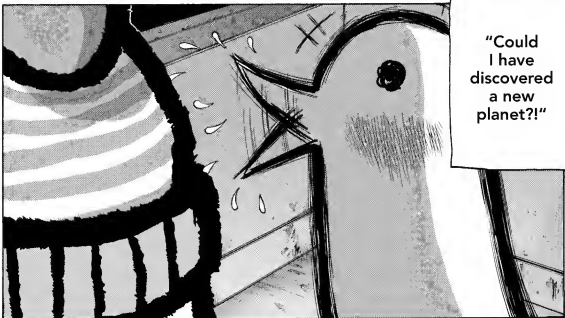
WHAT'S
GOT YOU
EXCITED
ENOUGH
TO DROOL,
PUNPUN?



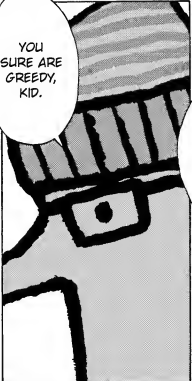
IT WAS
PROBABLY A
SATELLITE.



GRANTED,
YOU'RE
STILL A
CHILD. BUT
IT'S REALLY
IRRITATING!



"Could
I have
discovered
a new
planet?!"



YOU
SURE ARE
GREEDY,
KID.

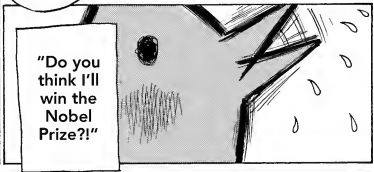


IF IT
REALLY
IS A NEW
PLANET...

YES!

THIS
COULD BE
A GREAT
DISCOVERY!

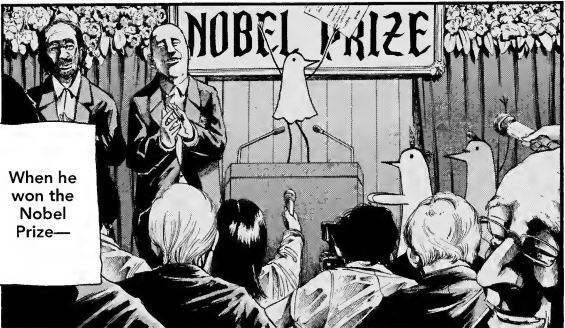
...IT'LL BE
CALLED
PLANET
PUNPUN!



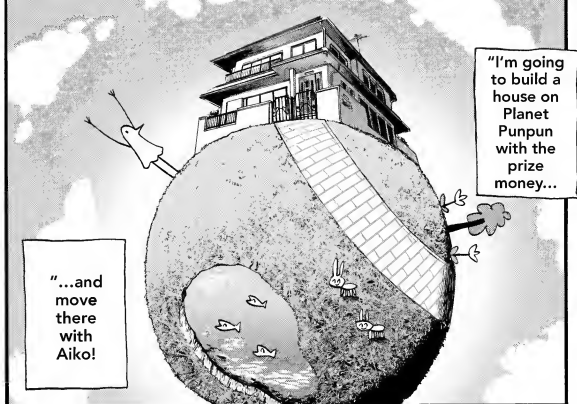
"Do you
think I'll
win the
Nobel
Prize?!"

Punpun was
completely
beside
himself.

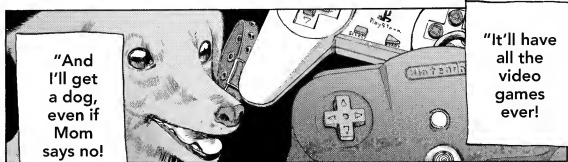
9



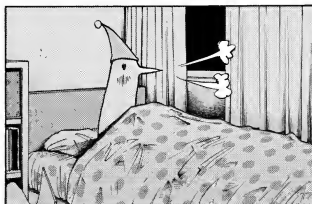
When he
won the
Nobel
Prize—



"...and move there with Aiko!"



"It'll have all the video games ever!"



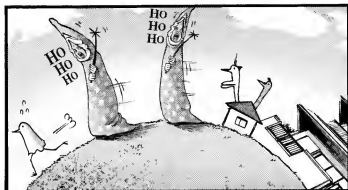
Punpun was so excited he couldn't sleep.

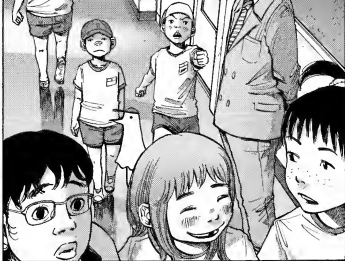
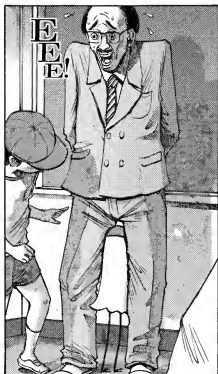


"If there's money left over, I'll buy a house for Dad and Mom too."



"I just know they're going to be impressed..."





But Punpun
had a hard
time finding
a chance
to speak to
Aiko.

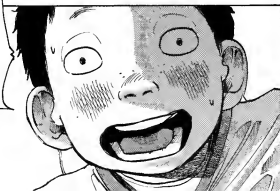


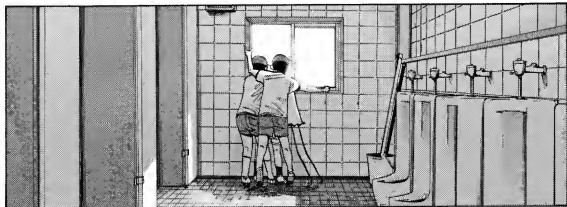
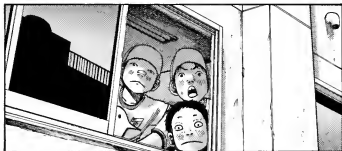
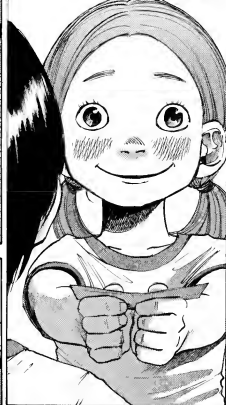
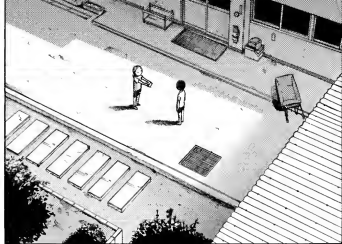
HARUMIN
AND....!

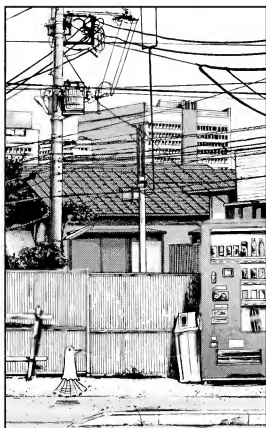


H-
HEY...!

BIG
NEWS!





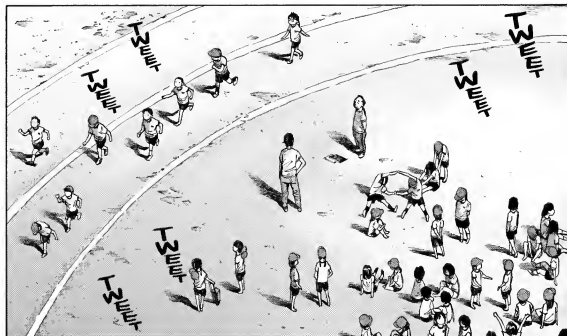






This was a terribly new and modern concept for Punpun.

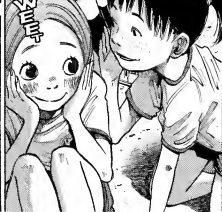
"When two people like each other, they hang out together."

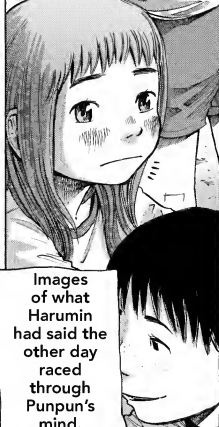


What did "hang out" mean, exactly?



But Punpun was puzzled about something.





Images
of what
Harumin
had said the
other day
raced
through
Punpun's
mind.



"...a boy
puts his
thing in his
girlfriend's
thing..."



SIR!



WHAT AM
I TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU HAVE
A STICK,
AND YOU HAVE
TO GET A
WOBBLY BALL
INTO A HOLE.
USING YOUR
HIPS IS
CRUCIAL.



THE
ANSWER IS
"CLIP-AND-
BALL GAME."

When
a boy
and girl
like each
other and
hang out,
they have
sex.



WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?

SUCH A
NASTY
MIND.



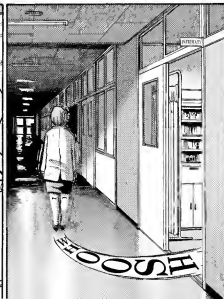
That question consumed Punpun.

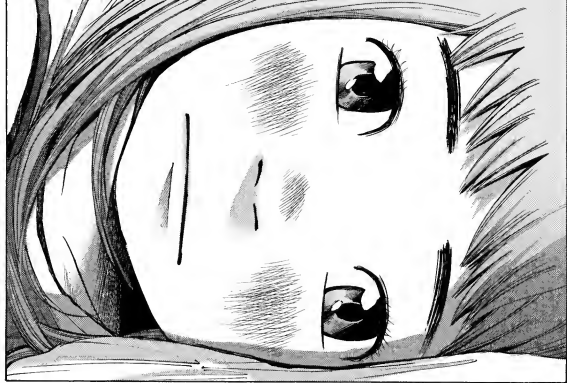
If that was the case, how did Aiko feel about him?



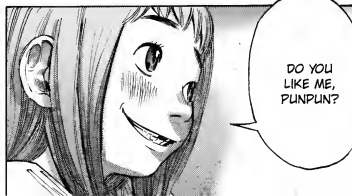
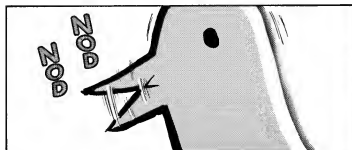
WHAT? YOU FELL?

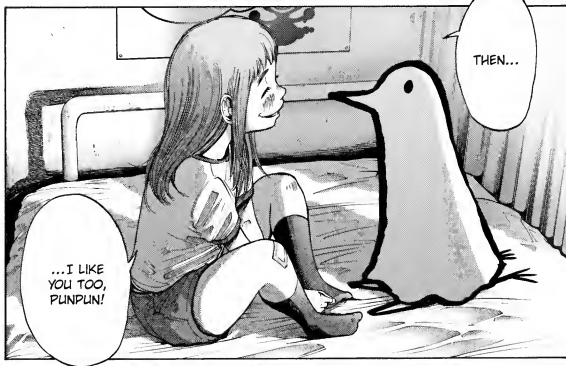
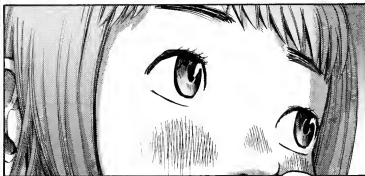
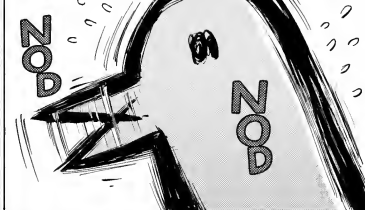
THAT'S JUST A SCRAPE.

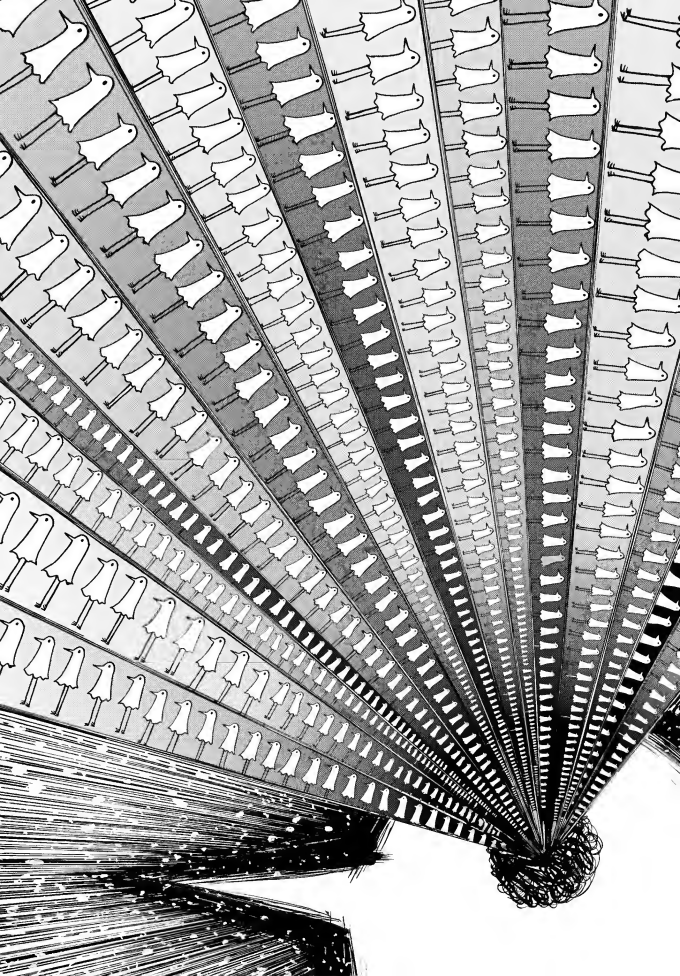














TWEET
TWEET

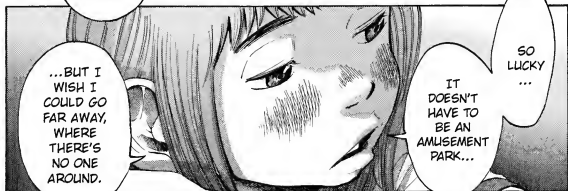
PUNPUN,
DID YOU KNOW
THAT SONODA
TOLD HARUMI
SHE LIKED
HIM?

TWEET
TWEET

TWEET
TWEET

LOOK,
SIR, A
RAINBOW!

THEY'RE
GOING TO
TOYOSHIMA
AMUSEMENT
PARK OVER
SUMMER
BREAK, JUST
THE TWO OF
THEM.



...BUT I
WISH I
COULD GO
FAR AWAY,
WHERE
THERE'S
NO ONE
AROUND.

IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
BE AN
AMUSEMENT
PARK...

SO
LUCKY
...



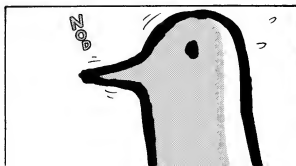
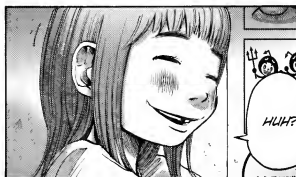
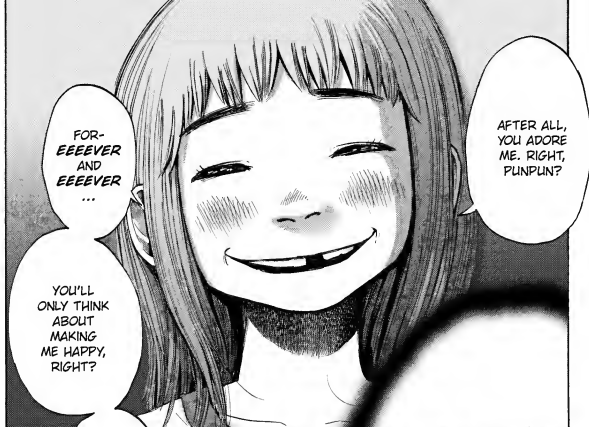
EVERY-
ONE CAN
DIE FOR
ALL I
CARE...

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
OTHER
PEOPLE DO.

...AS
LONG
AS I
HAVE YOU,
PUNPUN!

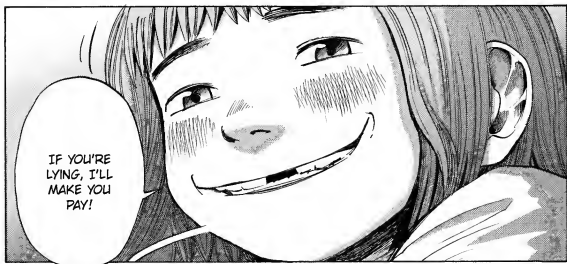
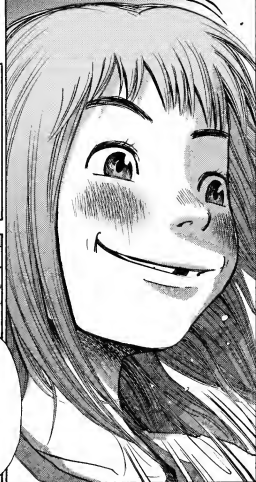
NOT
REALLY.

I'M NOT
JEALOUS
...





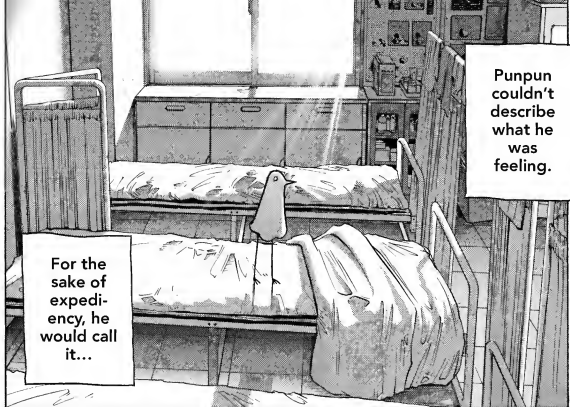
YOU
JUST
NODDED
OKAY!



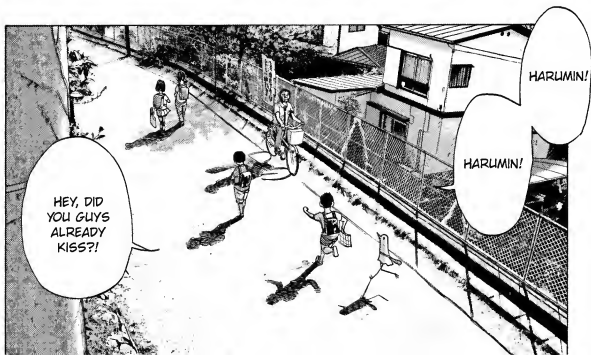
IF YOU'RE
LYING, I'LL
MAKE YOU
PAY!

Punpun was
at a loss
for words,
wondering
about it.

Just how
long did
Aiko mean
by "forever
and ever"?



"Scared."



IT'S
EMBARRASSING—
SHE DOESN'T
WANT PEOPLE
TO KNOW.

UHH...

SHE
DUMPED
ME.

WHAT?

SHE'S THE
ONE WHO
SAID SHE
LIKED ME,
SO WHAT DID
SHE EXPECT
FROM ME?

GIRLS
ARE
SCARY...

WE DIDN'T DO
A THING, AND
I GOT DUMPED
IN HALF A DAY.
ANY OTHER
QUESTIONS?

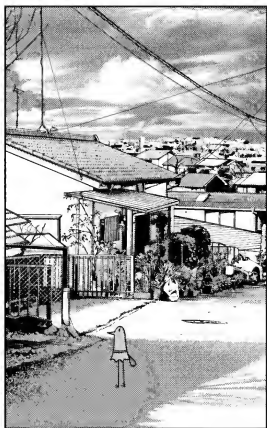


DAMN
IT!

au-
c-
tion

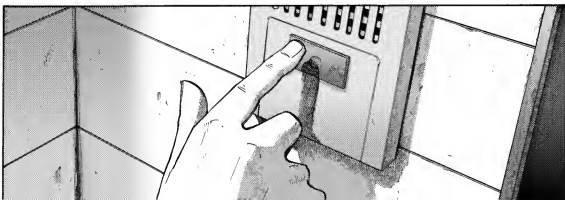
HEALTH
CENTER
GET OUT
NOW!

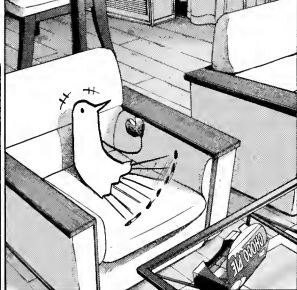
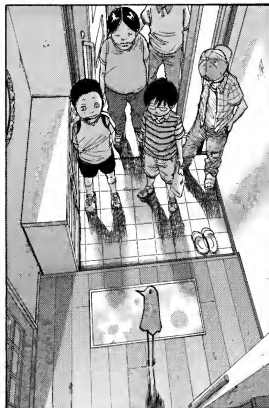














HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?

I'M 18...
HEE HEE.
♡

YOU'RE
AS CUTE
AS A DOLL.



HEE
HEH.
♡



YOU HAVE
BIG BOOBS.
WHAT CUP
SIZE?



G-CUP.



YOU
DIDN'T
PICK UP
THIS
VIDEO BY
CHANCE...

IT'S FATE.
SO YOU HAVE
AN OBLIGATION
TO WATCH
IT TO THE
END.





I
MUST...

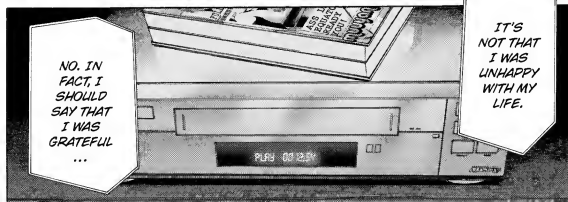


...MAKE
A VERY
IMPORTANT
CONFESSION
TO YOU.



...KILLED MY
FAMILY
WITH
MY OWN
HANDS.

I...



NO. IN
FACT, I
SHOULD
SAY THAT
I WAS
GRATEFUL
...

IT'S
NOT THAT
I WAS
UNHAPPY
WITH MY
LIFE.

BUT
THINK
HARD.

MY FATHER
DEDICATED MOST
OF HIS LIFE TO
HIS WORK, AND
MY MOTHER
DILIGENTLY
RAISED HER
KIDS.

MY OLDER
SISTER
MARRIED
A CIVIL
SERVANT
LAST
MONTH.

THIS HAPPY
FAMILY LIFE
WITH NO
WORRIES...
IT'S AS
FRAGILE AS
PAPIER-MÂCHÉ.



ONLY GOD
KNOWS WHEN
MISFORTUNE
WILL STRIKE.

ILLNESS,
ACCIDENTS,
NATURAL
DISASTERS,
FIRES,
BETRAYAL...



NEVER
KNOWING WHEN
YOU'LL GET
KNOCKED DOWN
AND GRASPING
DESPERATELY AT
WHAT LITTLE JOY
AND HOPE YOU
CAN FIND....
CAN THAT REALLY
BE HAPPINESS?

"I'M
GOING TO
ENJOY MY
SECOND
STAGE OF
LIFE."

AND
RIGHT
AFTER THAT,
HE FOUND
OUT HE HAD
CANCER.

WHEN
MY DAD
RETIRED,
HE SAID...





SO I
KILLED
THEM.



I
COULDN'T
TAKE IT
ANYMORE
...

EVERY-
THING
WAS
JUST
TOO
SAD...



I...

I ACTED
OUT OF
LOVE.

I
FREED
THEIR
SOULS.



AND
YET...

AND...



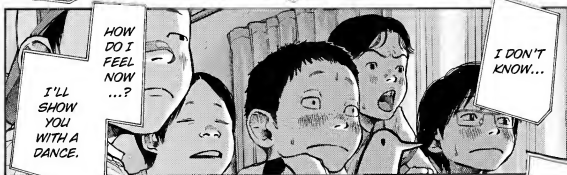
WAS I
WRONG?

OR IS
THIS JUST
GUILT?

MY
FATHER
STANDS
THERE...

...STARING
DOWN AT
ME.

...EVERY
NIGHT, HE
COMES TO
ME IN MY
DREAMS.



I'LL
SHOW
YOU
WITH A
DANCE.

HOW
DO I
FEEL
NOW
...?

I DON'T
KNOW...



I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND!
♪
I DON'T
GET IT!
♪

AIEEE!

I DON'T
GET IT!
♪
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND!
♪





I'VE ALSO
LEFT SOME
CASH, ENOUGH
TO BE WORTH
YOUR
COURAGE.

SO I
WANT YOU
TO FIND THE
BODIES AND
LEAK IT TO
THE MEDIA.

THERE'S AN
ABANDONED
MISO FACTORY
ON THE ROAD
TO K TOWN.
I'VE HIDDEN
THE BODIES
THERE. THREE
OF THEM.

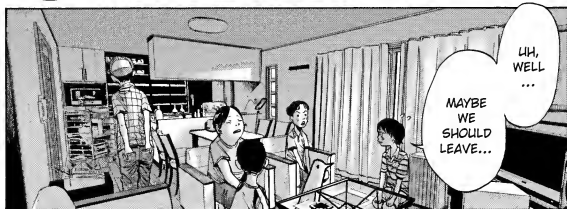


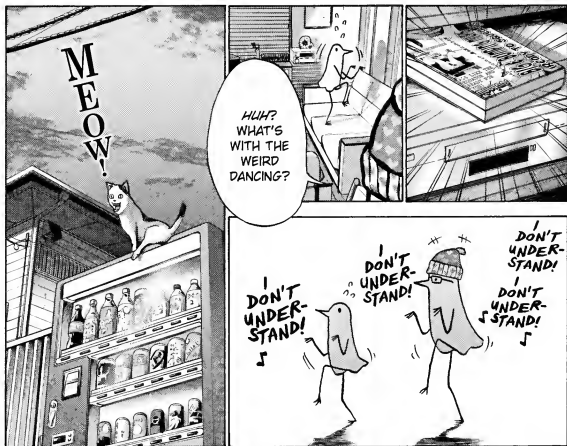
IF YOU'RE
WATCHING
THIS VIDEO
NOW, I'VE
PROBABLY
ALREADY
KILLED
MYSELF.

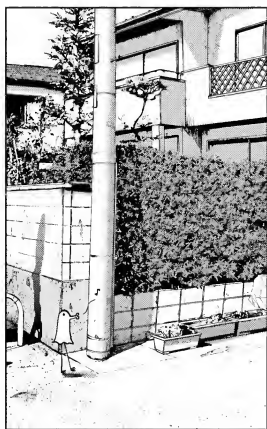


I'M
COUNTING
ON YOUR
BRAVERY
AND
CURIOSITY
...

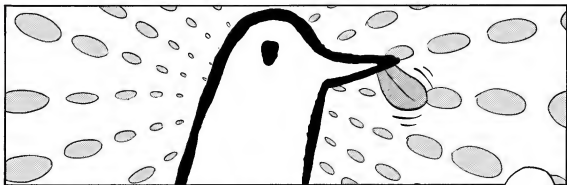
















SO
YOU'RE
SAYING
I'M
UNHAPPY?

I
WOULDN'T
WANT A SMILE
PLASTERED
ON MY FACE
LIKE YOU.



SEE?
PEOPLE WITH
POOR HEALTH
LOSE THEIR
ABILITY TO
SMILE.

PEOPLE
WHO LOSE
THEIR SMILE
LOSE THEIR
HAPPINESS.



WHAT
ARE YOU
HAVING FOR
DINNER
TONIGHT?

EXCUSE
ME, BUT...



PLEASE
USE THIS
WATER! IT'S
GOOD FOR
YOUR HEALTH,
AND IT'LL MAKE
YOUR CURRY
MUCH MORE
DELICIOUS!

WELL,
THEN!

HMM...



WE'RE
HAVING
CURRY.



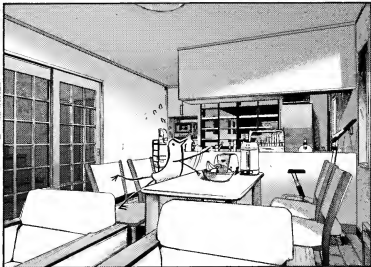
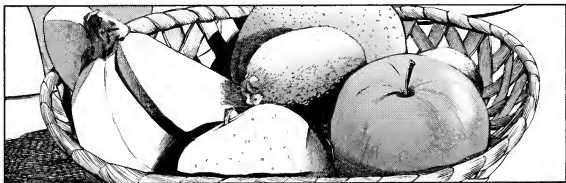
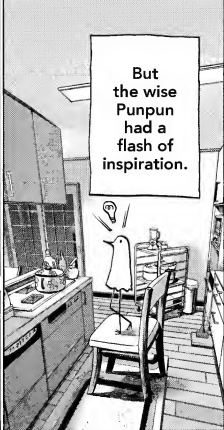


Actually, Punpun can't eat spicy foods, so he said that to make Uncle Yuichi happy.

He remembered his father's words,
"Curry has to be mild.
And if you grate in
some apple, it makes
it even milder and
irresistible for someone
like me who prefers a
subtle flavor."



But
the wise
Punpun
had a
flash of
inspiration.





His father
hadn't
been
home for
more than
a month.



Punpun
worried
that his
father
would miss
the Japan
Baseball
Series.

Uncle Yuichi
said he
had been
"transferred
away for
work."



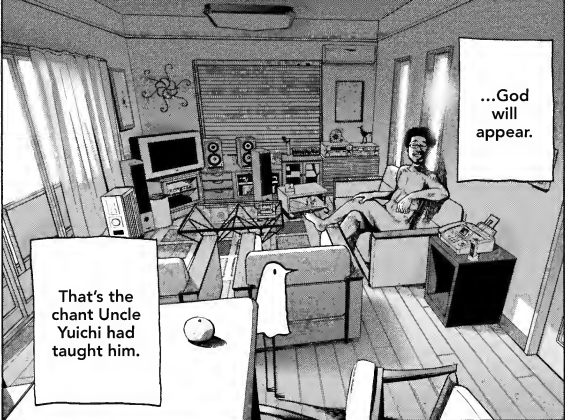
If you
chant "Dear
God, dear
God, tinkle
hoy"...



"I wonder if
he'll bring
back lots of
presents..."



Punpun
felt a
rush of
loneliness.

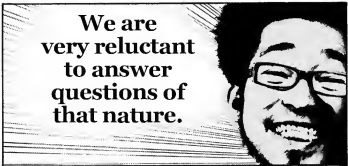
A black and white illustration of a man with glasses and a mustache sitting on a sofa in a cluttered living room. The room is filled with various electronic equipment, including a television, speakers, and a stereo system. A small white bird is perched on the back of the sofa in the foreground.

...God
will
appear.

That's the
chant Uncle
Yuichi had
taught him.

A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a man's face. He is wearing glasses and has a wide, toothy grin, showing his teeth. His eyes are squinted.

**Howdy,
Punpun! Did
you want
something?**

A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a man's face. He is wearing glasses and has a wide, toothy grin, showing his teeth. His eyes are squinted.

**We are
very reluctant
to answer
questions of
that nature.**

A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a white bird, likely Punpun, looking down. The bird is shown from the chest up, with its head tilted slightly to the side.

"Meanie,"
thought
Punpun
angrily.

A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a white bird, likely Punpun, looking up. The bird is shown from the chest up, with its head tilted slightly to the side.

Punpun
asked,
"Will Dad
be home
in time for
the Japan
Series?"

Ask
your
Uncle
Yuichi—

Sheesh,
Punpun,
you are
so lazy.

But
we are
happy to
consider
other
questions...

"Oh,
all right!"



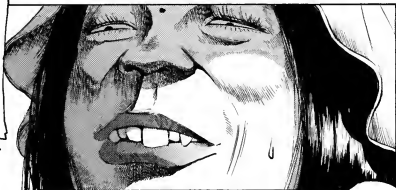


IT'S FINE
WITH ME IF
YOU BELIEVE
YOUR GOD
WILL SAVE
YOU!

LET
ME BE
CLEAR...

I'M NOT
SAYING
THAT
RELIGION
IS BAD.

BUT I'M
SAYING YOU
SHOULDN'T
SHOVE YOUR
BELIEFS ON
OTHER
PEOPLE!



YIKES!

**SHUT
UP!**

PLEASE
CALM
DOWN...

YOU'RE
LONELY,
AREN'T
YOU?!

YOU'RE
SO
ANXIOUS
AND
WOUND
UP.

J-JUST
COMPARE IT
TO WATER
FROM YOUR
FAUCET...



AND IF
NECESSARY,
I'LL KICK
OTHER PEOPLE
OUT OF
MY WAY!

I...

ISN'T
THAT HOW
HUMAN
NATURE
WORKS?!

...AM FINE
LIVING BY
MYSELF!



THE WORLD
OVERFLOWS
WITH SADNESS
BECAUSE OF
PEOPLE LIKE
YOU.

OH...

OH...



EVERY
THREE
SECONDS,
A CHILD
DIES FROM
HUNGER
SOMEWHERE
IN THE
WORLD.

AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
IS NEARLY
DESTROYED...

YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

I'M JUST A
DISGUSTING
MACHINE THAT
CONTINUOUSLY
PRODUCES
GARBAGE AND
SHIT!



FINE!

EEEEK!

THEN THE
WORLD IS
MINE!

IF
HUMANITY
GOES
EXTINCT,
IT'S ALL
YOUR
FAULT!



SAVE THIS
FOOLISH
MAN...

OH,
PLEASE
...!

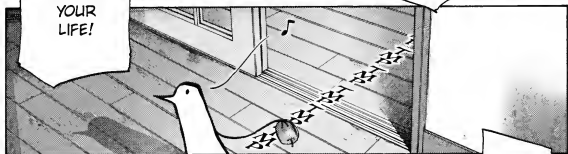
PLEASE!



THOSE
ARE THE
LIPS OF
GOD,
HUH?!

AH
HA! SEE!

YOU
SHOULD BE
ASHAMED OF
YOURSELF, KID.
DON'T LOOK
SO SMUG!



...
N
O

G
O
D
!

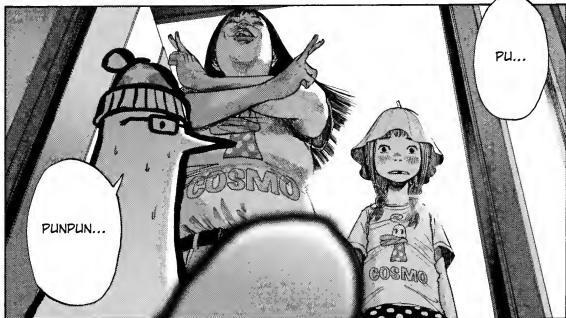


That was
the chant
Uncle Yuichi
had taught
Punpun
three years
ago.

"Dear God,
dear God,
tinkle hoy."



OH...



PUNPUN...

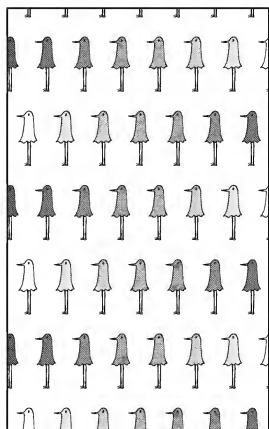
PU...

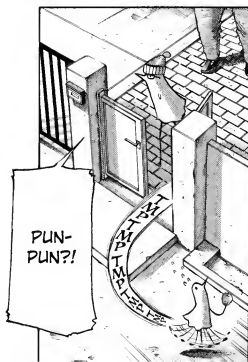




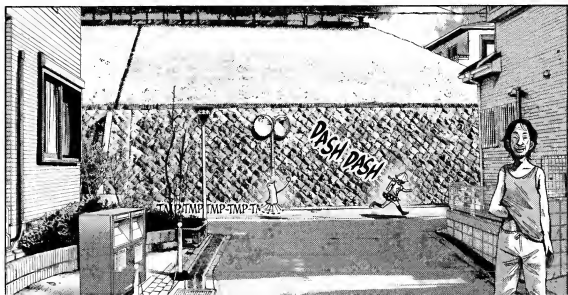
"Aiko!"





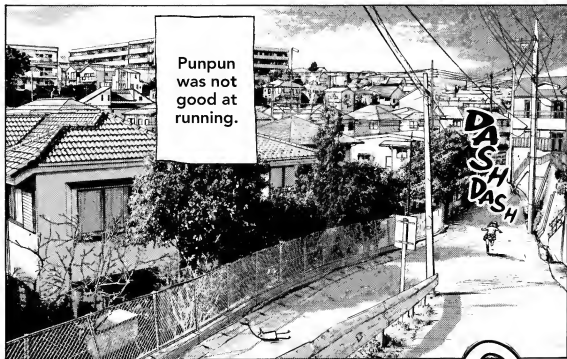


In a drastically
uncharacteristic
manner, Punpun
dashed after her.

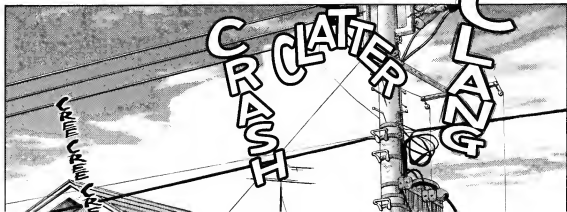




As he ran,
he forgot
why he was
running, but
he kept at it
with all his
might.



Punpun
was not
good at
running.





I KNOW
LOTS OF
LAWYERS, SO
YOU'LL LOSE
IF YOU TRY TO
SUE ME...

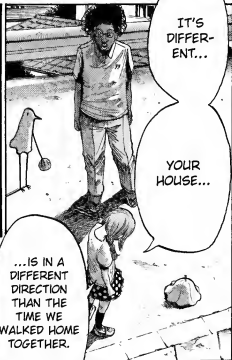


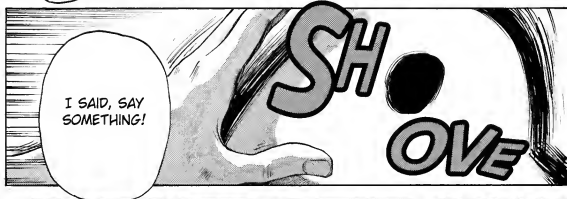
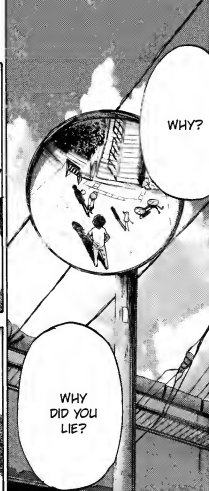
Aiko!



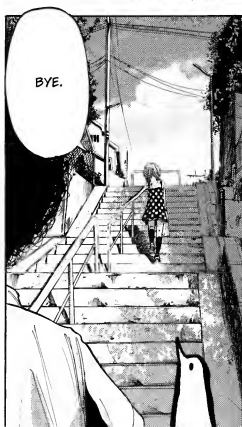
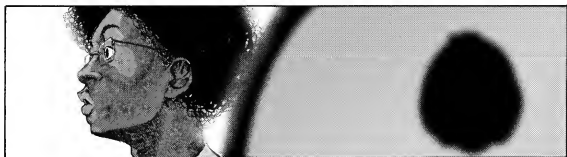
YOU CAME
CHARGING
INTO ME.

IT'S
NOT MY
FAULT...





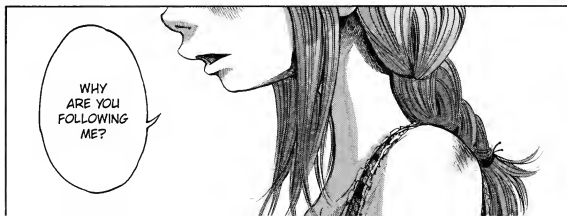
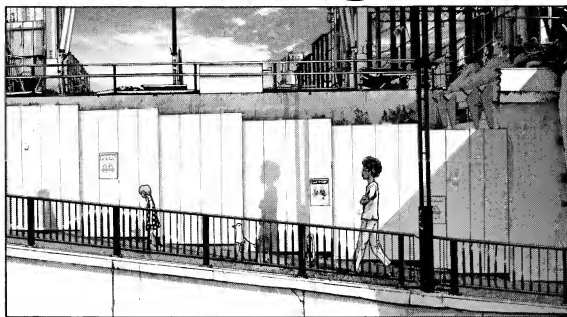






I WISH I
COULD GO
SOMEPLACE
FAR AWAY...

SOMEPLACE
WHERE NO ONE
KNOWS ME...



WHY
ARE YOU
FOLLOWING
ME?



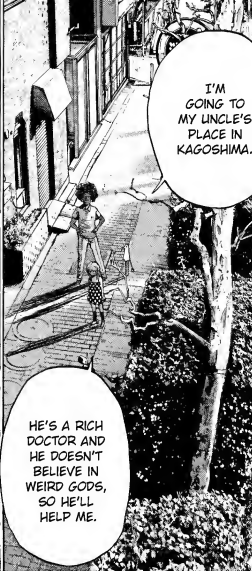
I
WONDER IF
I CAN WALK
THERE BY
MYSELF.

KAGO-
SHIMA IS
REALLY
FAR.



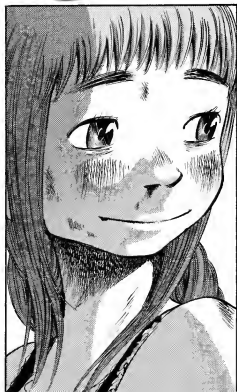
I'M JUST
GOING HOME
LIKE USUAL.

JUST
KIDDING.



I'M
GOING TO
MY UNCLE'S
PLACE IN
KAGOSHIMA.

HE'S A RICH
DOCTOR AND
HE DOESN'T
BELIEVE IN
WEIRD GODS,
SO HE'LL
HELP ME.

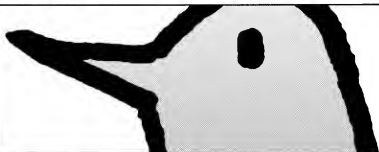


Punpun
proudly
declared,
"I'll win the
Nobel Prize.
Then we can
go and live
on Planet
Punpun!"





Punpun
thought
that if
Aiko said
so, he
must be
crazy.



Oh well,
God sorta
likes that
side of you,
Punpun.

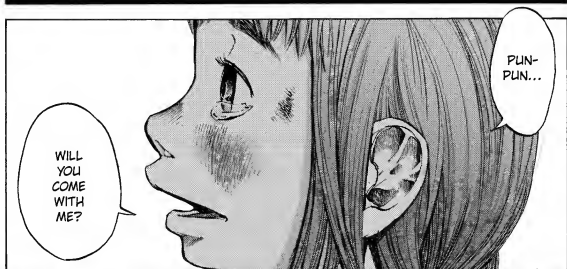






...Punpun
asked
Aiko.

"Where is
Kagoshima
anyway?"

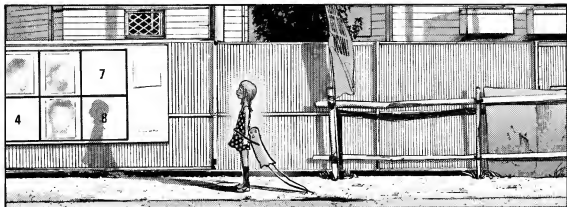




...so
Punpun
held her
hand as
hard as he
could.

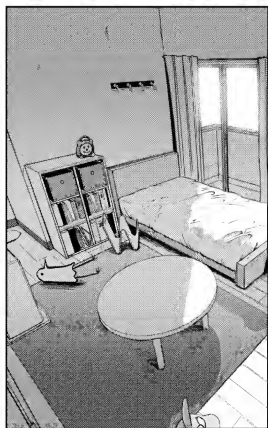
It felt like
Aiko would
go far, far
away if he
let go...

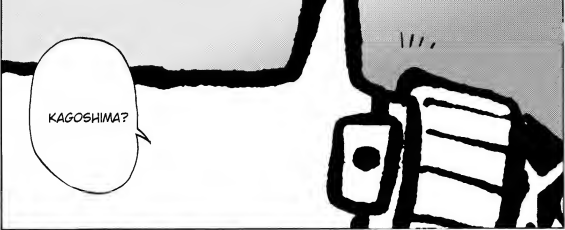




Punpun promised Aiko that he would go with her to Kagoshima after school ended for the semester.







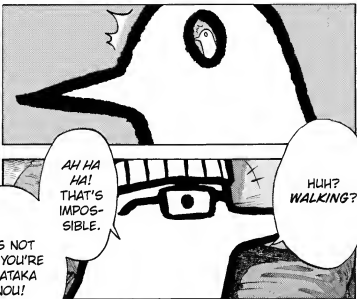
KAGOSHIMA?



THE
BULLET
TRAIN
WOULD
RUN JUST
UNDER
\$250.

BUT IT'D
TAKE
HALF A
DAY.

WELL,
A PLANE
TICKET WOULD
COST ABOUT
\$250 TO
\$350.

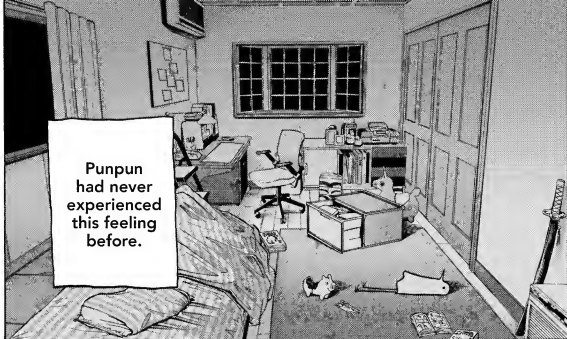


AH HA
HA!
THAT'S
IMPOS-
SIBLE.

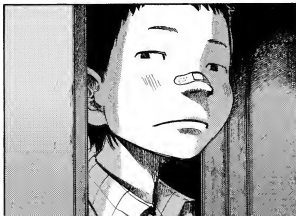
IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU'RE
TADATAKA
INO!

HUH?
WALKING?





Hope.



SHUT UP.
EVEN I HAVE
ENOUGH SAVED
UP SO I DON'T
HAVE TO WORK
LIKE A SLAVE
DAY IN AND DAY
OUT.

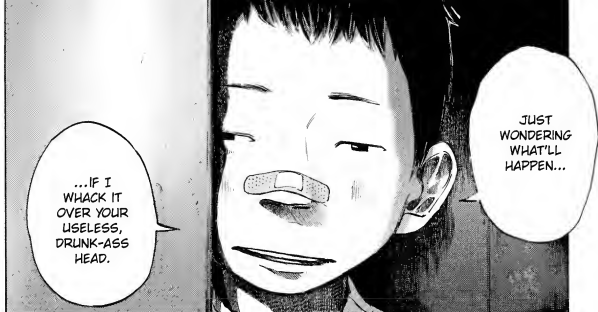
HEY, DAD,
AREN'T YOU
STARTING A
NEW JOB
TODAY?

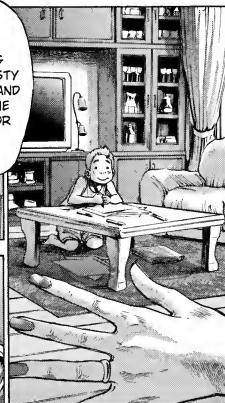
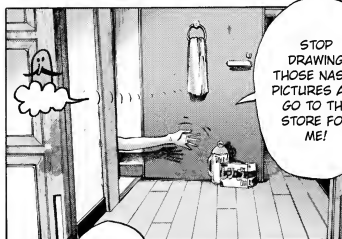
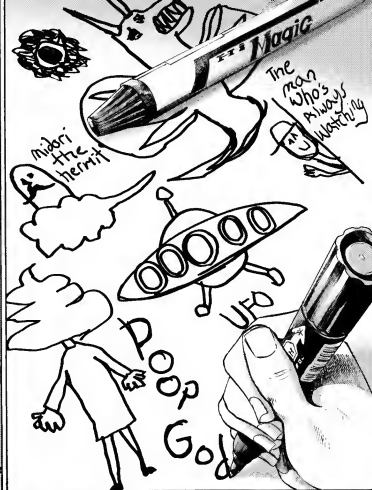
YOU
SHOULD TALK.
AND WHAT'S
WITH THAT
BAT IN YOUR
HAND?

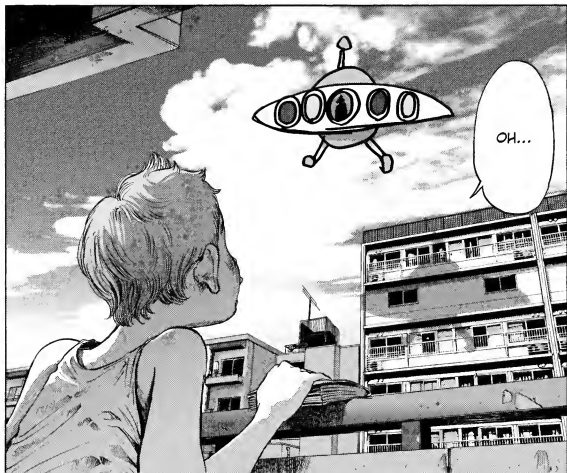
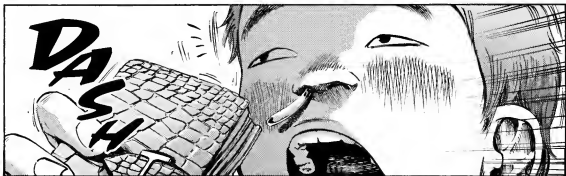
YOU'RE
JUST
HIDING
AGAIN,
AREN'T
YOU?

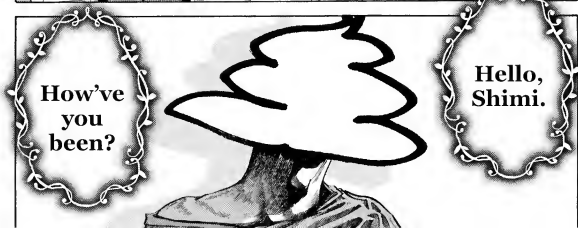
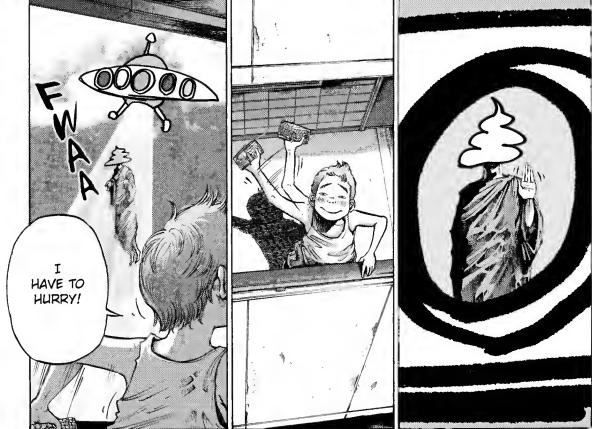
DON'T
ACT LIKE
YOU'RE
COOL.

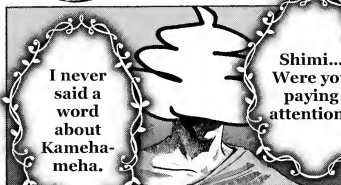
YOU MAKE
MOM WORK SO
HARD AND YOU
JUST DON'T
CARE?







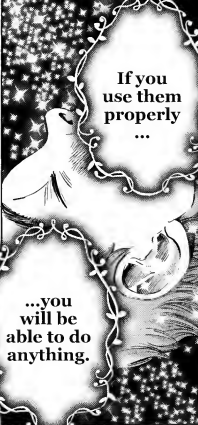




Shimi...
Were you
paying
attention?

What's
the
matter?





If you
use them
properly
...

...you
will be
able to do
anything.



Should
they be
used to
destroy
things?

Should
they be
used
to hurt
people?



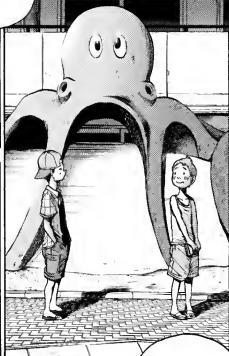
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

SHIMIZU
...



THE
POOP GOD
SAID...

...I
CAN DO
ANYTHING!



GET
YOURSELF
TOGETHER.

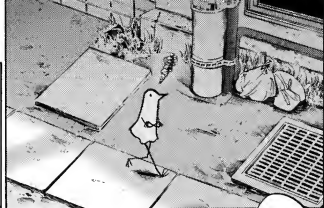
BY THE
WAY, CAN
YOU LOAN
ME SOME
MONEY?

I'M
HAVING
A ROUGH
TIME
RIGHT
NOW.



WHEN
ARE YOU
GONNA STOP
TALKING NON-
SENSE?

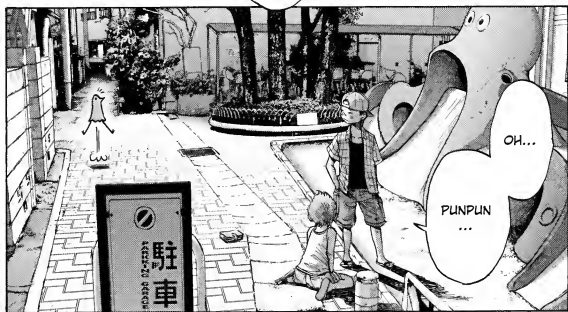
I'VE
KNOWN
YOU SINCE
KINDER-
GARTEN...



YEAH,
SURE.



...
IDIOT!
DON'T
BELIEVE
EVERYTHING
PEOPLE
TELL YOU!



OH...

PUNPUN
...



HARUMIN,
PUNPUN IS
LATE.

NEVER
MIND HIM,
KOMATSU...
I'M
WORRIED.

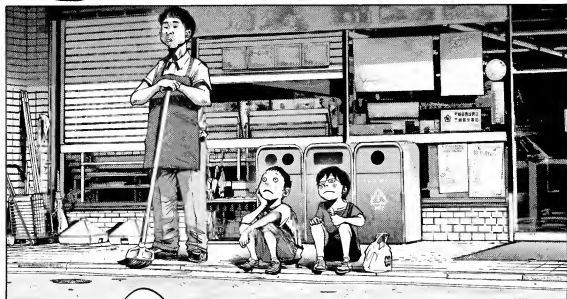
ABOUT
WHAT?



NOT HER!
UGH!



HUH?
YOU MEAN THAT FAT LADY?



HEY,
KOMATSU.



EXACTLY!
AND THAT'S
THE PROBLEM,
KOMATSU!

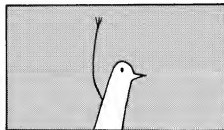
...I
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE
THE MISO
FACTORY
IS.

BUT...



WANT ME
TO TAKE
YOU?

I KNOW
WHERE
IT IS.



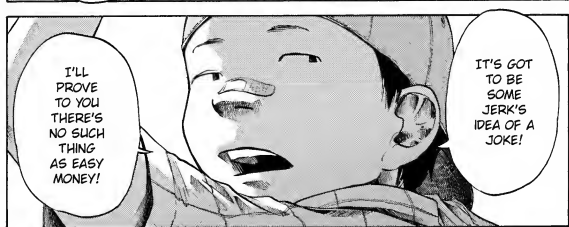
BUT, SEKI,
YOU SAID IT
WAS JUST
A PRANK.

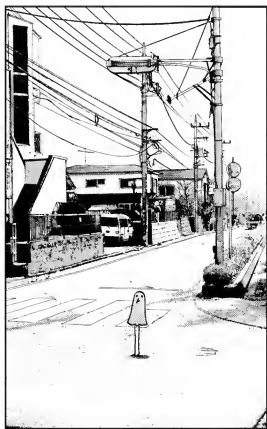


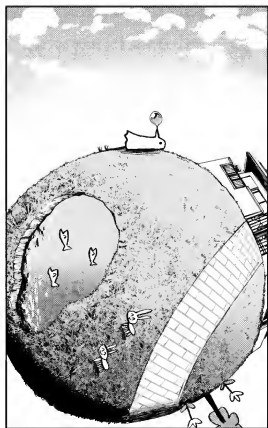
OH, SEKI.
HOW
LONG'VE
YOU BEEN
STANDING
THERE?

OH,
SHIMI'S
HERE
TOO.

At that
moment, a
lightbulb
went off in
Punpun's
head.







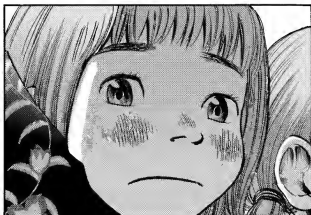
Because if
they found
money at
the factory...

Punpun
placed all
his hopes
and dreams
on the miso
factory.



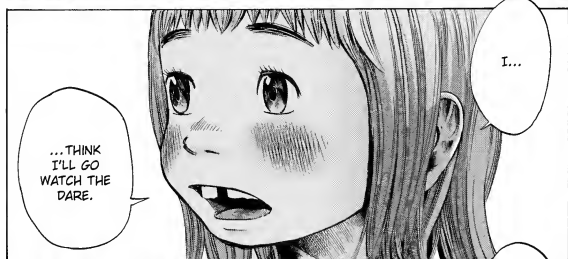
"Aiko
won't
kill me!"

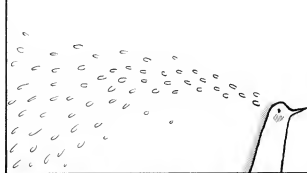




"It's
Aiko!"





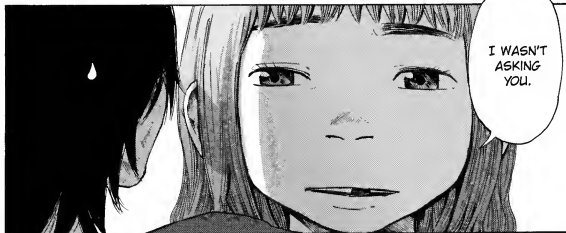


YOU
DON'T
MIND, DO
YOU,
PUNPUN?

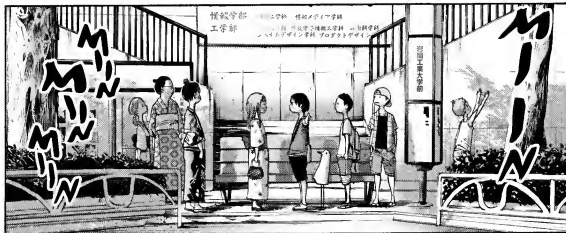


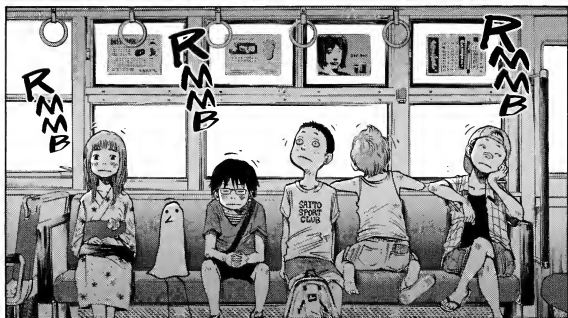
ERR!
GIRLS
CAN'T
GO!

BECAUSE...
YOU KNOW...
THEY'RE GONNA
BE ROUGH
CHALLENGES.



I WASN'T
ASKING
YOU.

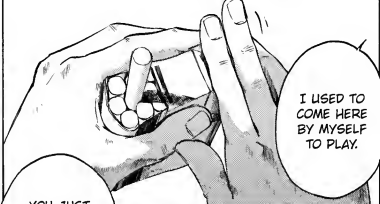




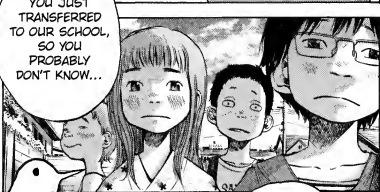




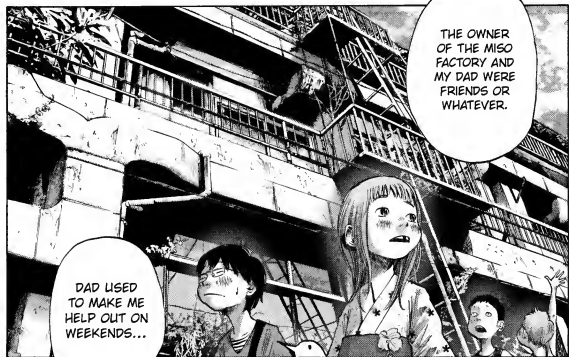
ANYWAY,
WE USED
TO HAVE
A BENTO
SHOP.



I USED TO
COME HERE
BY MYSELF
TO PLAY.



YOU JUST
TRANSFERRED
TO OUR SCHOOL,
SO YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T KNOW...



THE OWNER
OF THE MISO
FACTORY AND
MY DAD WERE
FRIENDS OR
WHATEVER.

DAD USED
TO MAKE ME
HELP OUT ON
WEEKENDS...



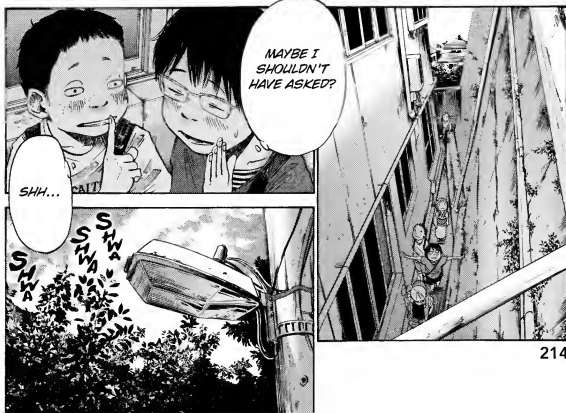
ANYWAY,
THE MISO
FACTORY WENT
BANKRUPT, AND
THAT DRAGGED
US DOWN TOO.



I JUST
WANT TO
FIND OUT
IF THIS IS
REAL.

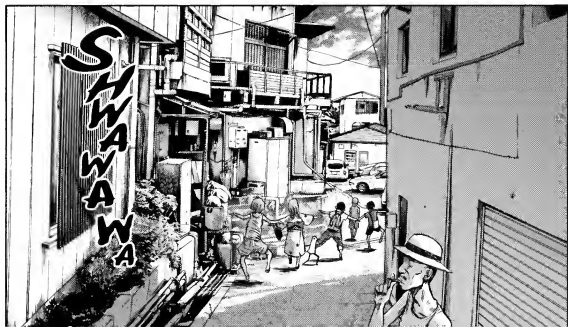
I
HATE
LIARS.

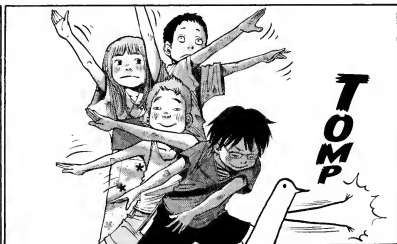
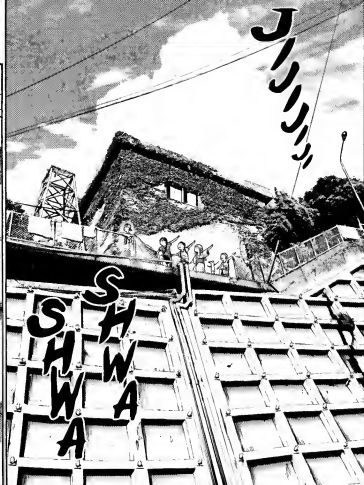
I COULDN'T
CARE LESS IF
THERE'S MONEY
THERE OR NOT.

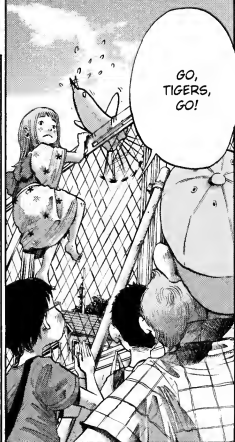
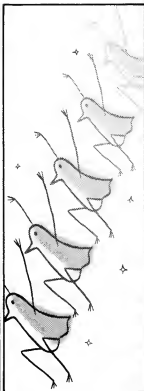


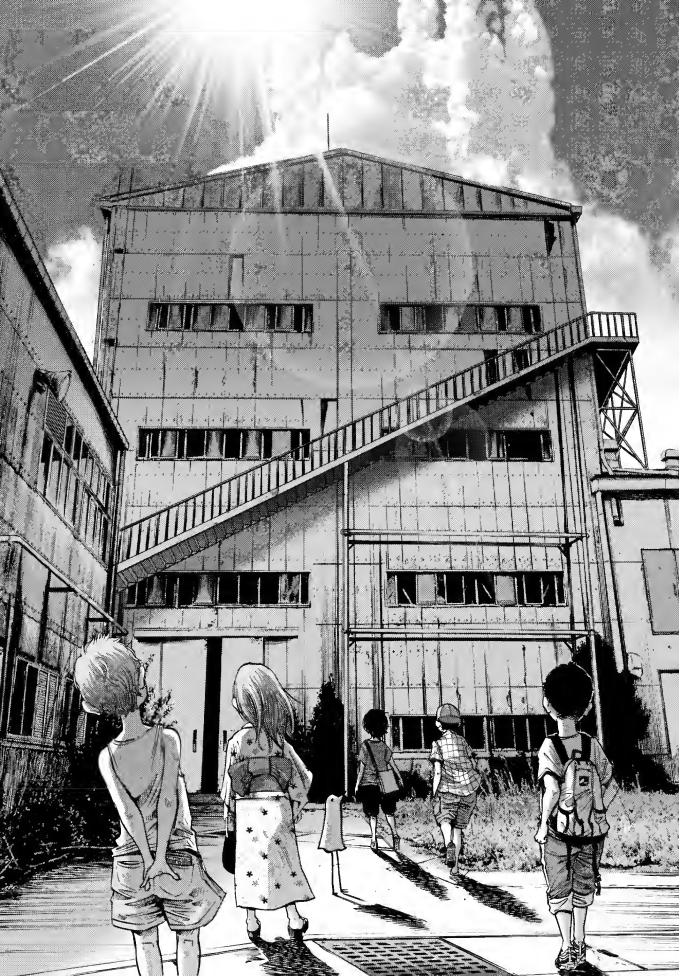
SHH...

MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE ASKED?











After coming all that way, Punpun realized something awful.

I HEAR A SOUND...

"I really
need to
pee!"

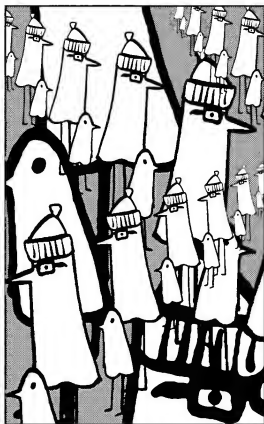
SOME-
ONE...

TOM

...IS
COMING.

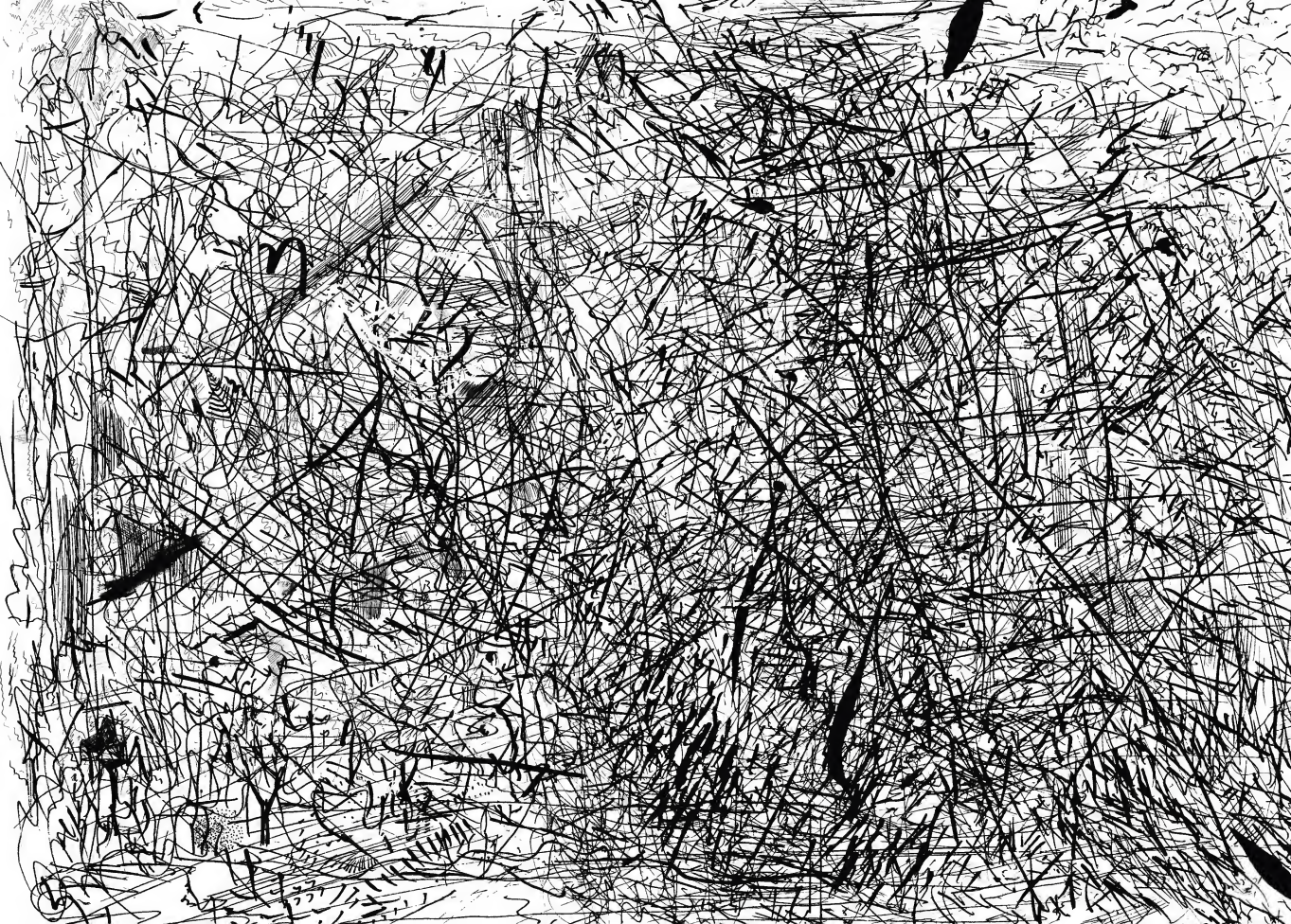
TOM

SAITO
SPORT
CLUB



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part One

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Yasumasa Iwama

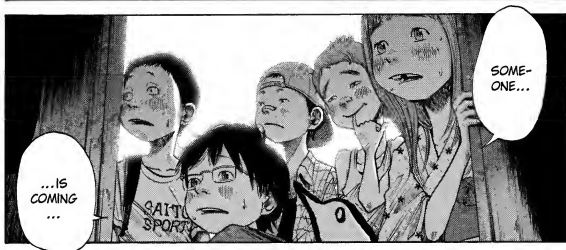


GOODNIGHT PUNPUN
Part Two

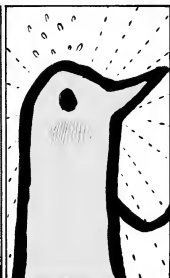
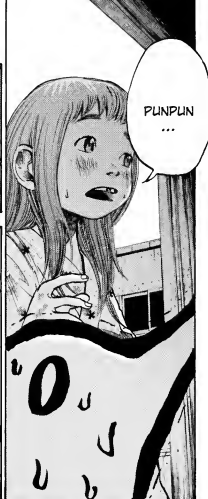
Chapter 13	227
Chapter 14	247
Chapter 15	265
Chapter 16	281
Chapter 17	299
Chapter 18	317
Chapter 19	335
Chapter 20	353
Chapter 21	371
Chapter 22	389
Chapter 23	411

CONTENTS

Punpun realized something awful.



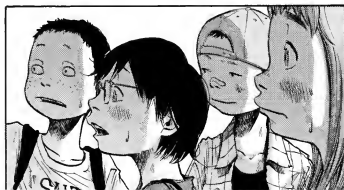
"I really need to pee!!"



Punpun had absolutely no idea what was going on.



Punpun
desperately
clenched
to hold
it in.





ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
KIDS?



I WAS
FINALLY
GOING TO
CHASE THEM
AWAY TODAY.

SOMETIMES
THE LOCAL
PUNKS COME
HERE TO HAVE
SEX, WHICH
TOTALLY PISSES
ME OFF.

HUH,
SORRY.



UHM
...

SO
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE...?

THE SIGN
SAYS "NO
TRESPASSING,"
BUT I'VE
NEVER SEEN
ANYONE,
YOU KNOW,
OFFICIAL.

WHAAT?!
WHAT ARE
YOU ALL
SCARED OF?
IT'S OKAY!



THERE'S
BLOOD
ON YOUR
FACE...

NO, I
MEAN...



NOTHING
REALLY. I
MEAN, I
JUST LIKE
TO HANG
OUT HERE.

ME?



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT. IT
HAPPENS ALL
THE TIME.

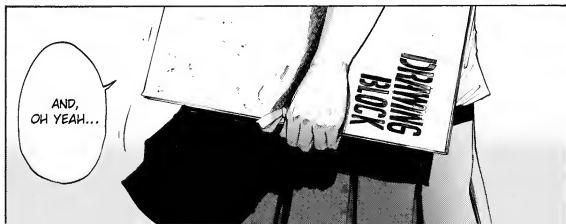
OH,
THAT...
MY DAD'S
A LITTLE
VIOLENT.



THIS
PLACE
IS, LIKE,
SPECIAL
TO ME,
GOT IT?

I
DON'T MIND
YOU PLAYING
HERE, BUT
DON'T MAKE
A MESS,
OKAY?

ANY-
HOO...



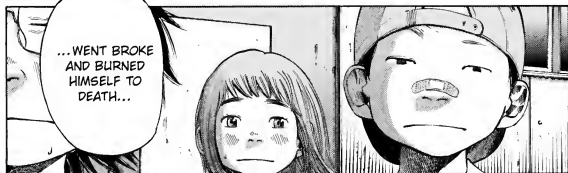
AND,
OH YEAH...



PLUS, I
HEARD THE
DUDE WHO
OWNED THE
FACTORY...

GO
HOME
BEFORE IT
GETS DARK,
OKAY?

IT'S
PRETTY
DANGER-
OUS HERE
WITH ALL THE
RUSTY METAL
AND STUFF
...



...WENT BROKE
AND BURNED
HIMSELF TO
DEATH...



...SO NOW
HE HANGS
AROUND
HERE ALL
"BOOOO!"



LATERS.

AS IF.



WHAT'S
WITH HER
ANYWAY?

But he
looked for
the bodies
and money
with
everyone
else.

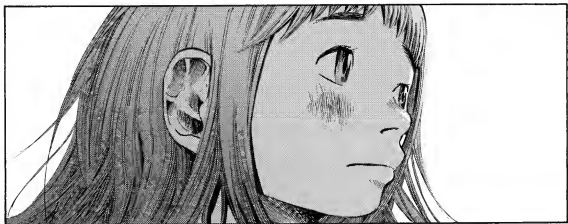
To be
honest,
Punpun
really
wanted
to go
home.





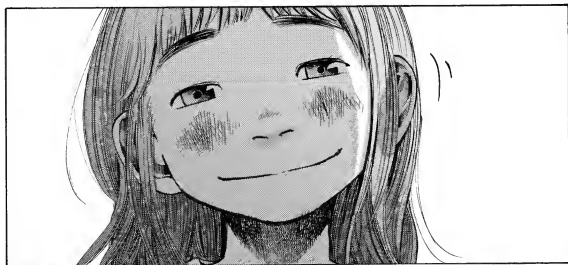
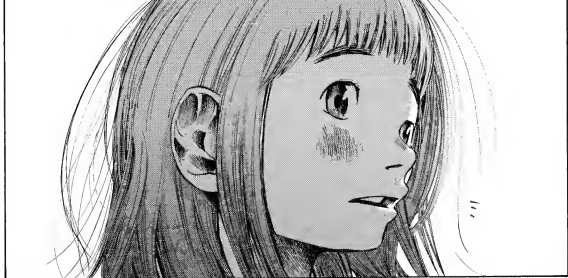
Punpun was petrified of both dead bodies and ghosts, but he thought he should man up.





That was
a definite,
absolute
promise.

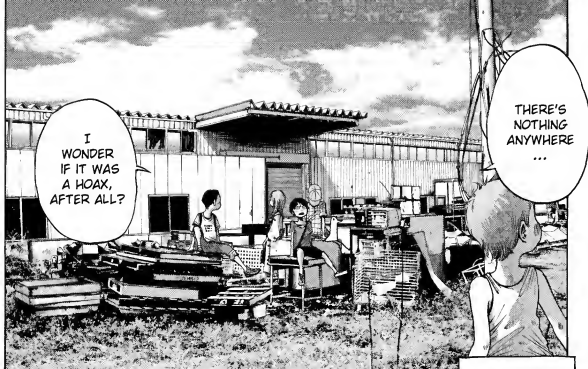
Because he
was going to
take Aiko to
Kagoshima.



UURRR...

That's what
Punpun
thought.

If
that's what
Aiko wanted,
then he
definitely had
to make it
happen.





WE
SHOULD
COME
BACK
HERE
AGAIN...

IF WE
BRING
PAINTBALL
GUNS FOR A
SURVIVAL
GAME, IT'LL
BE TOTALLY
FUN!



TODAY
WAS
PRETTY
FUN...

...SO
MAYBE
IT'S
BETTER
THIS WAY.



HUH?

I CAN
COME IF
WE DO
IT OVER
SUMMER
VACATION
...

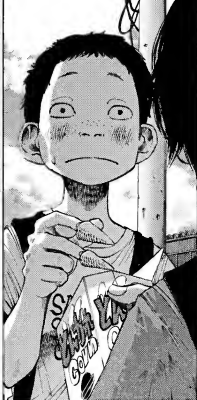
YEAH...



...MOVING
AT THE
BEGINNING OF
NEXT TERM.

WELL,
I'M...







IF WE
FIND A MILLION
BUCKS, MAYBE
I'LL ASK
HARUMIN'S MOM
NOT TO MOVE.

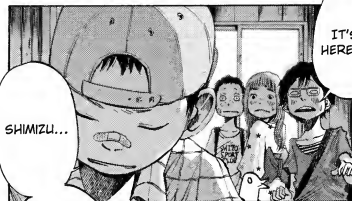
THIS IS
THE LAST
BUILDING TO
CHECK.

SERIOUS-
LY?



WHAT'S
UP,
SHIMI?

I...



SHIMIZU...

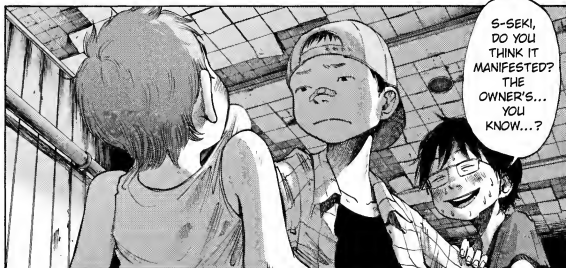
IT'S
HERE...

...JUST
SAW A
MAN OVER
THERE.



...YOU'RE
JUST
TALKING
NONSENSE
AGAIN...

SC
B

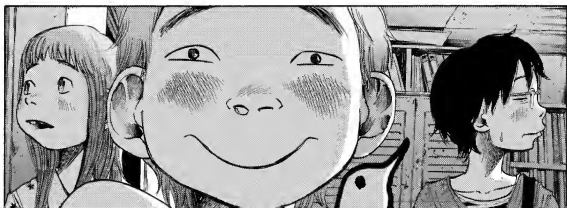
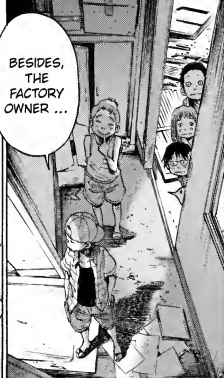


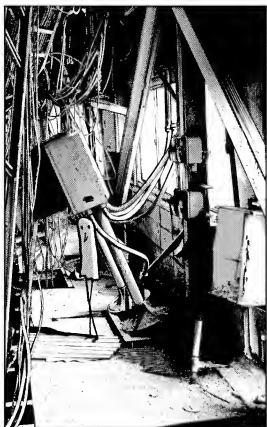
S-SEKI,
DO YOU
THINK IT
MANIFESTED?
THE
OWNER'S...
YOU
KNOW...?



WHAT A
LOAD OF
CRAP.

YOU
GUYS DON'T
NEED TO
BUY INTO
HIS LIES!









HEY,
KID.

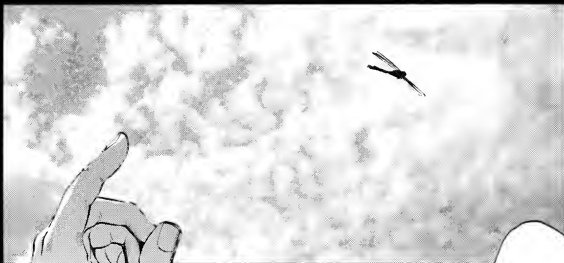


HA HA,
JUST LIKE
HIS DAD.



HE
THINKS
HE'S TOUGH,
BUT REALLY
HE'S SHY.

NO
POINT
TALKING
TO HIM.





IF I TAKE
OVER FOR
MY DAD...

HMM?

HEY,
AUNT.

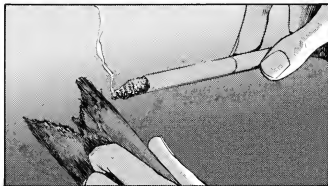
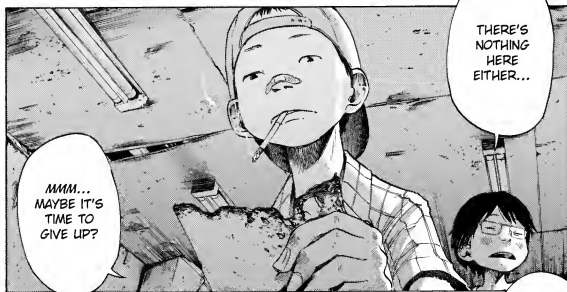
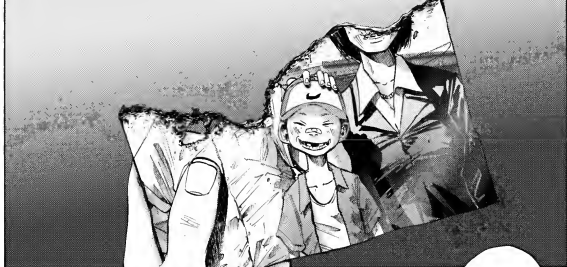


OF
COURSE!
I SWEAR
TO GOD!



PROMISE?!

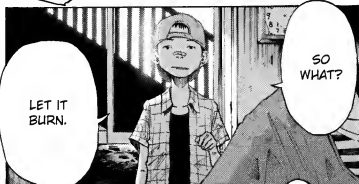
HEH
HEH...





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING,
SEKI?
YOU'LL
START
A FIRE.

WHOA,
WHOA,
WHOA!



LET IT
BURN.

SO
WHAT?



WELL
...

YOU
GUYS
WOULDN'T
UNDER-
STAND.

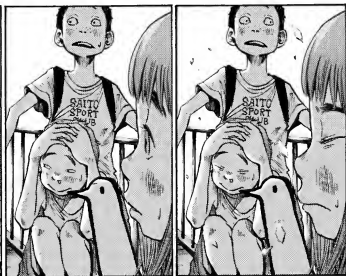


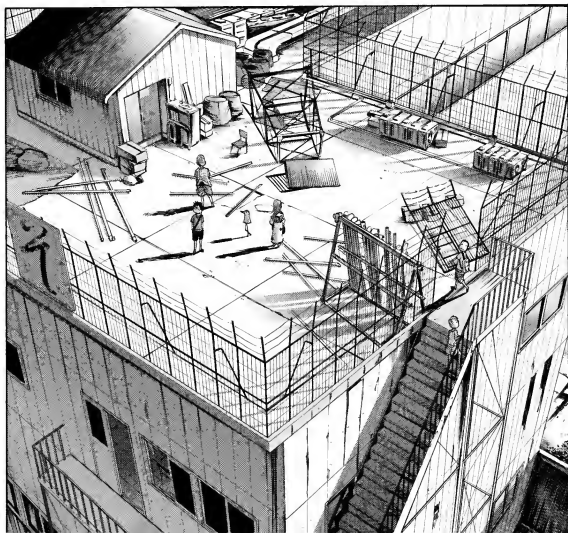
NO, NO,
NO,
THAT'S
NOT
COOL!

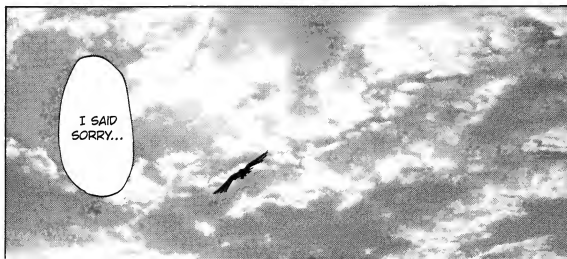
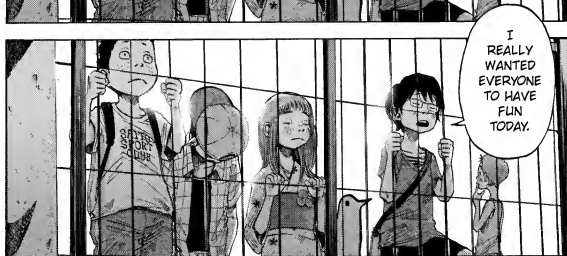
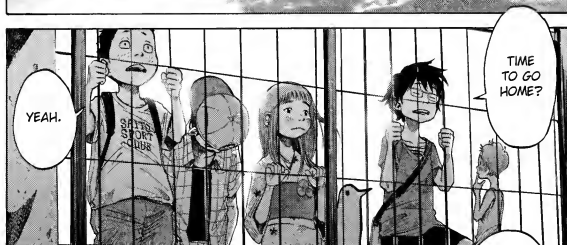
SEKI, WHY
ARE YOU
BEING SO
WEIRD
TODAY?!



YOU
LAUGH AT
EVEN THE
STUPIDEST
STUFF.

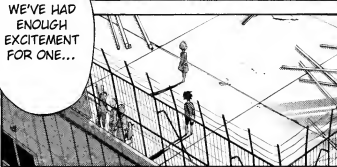




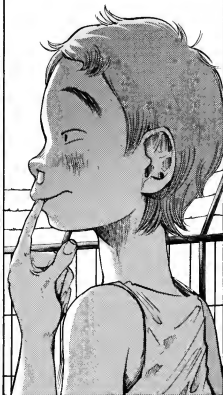




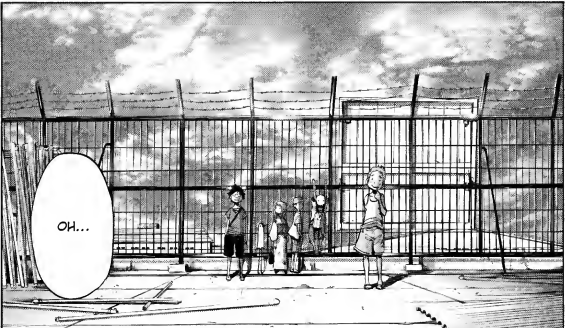
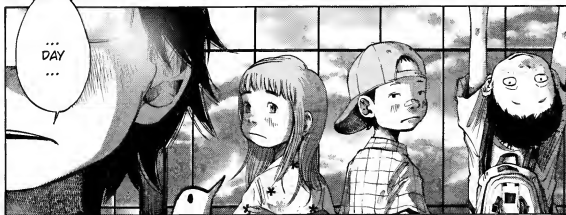
SHIMI...
WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU SEE
SOMETHING?



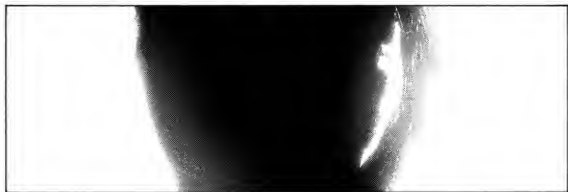
WE'VE HAD
ENOUGH
EXCITEMENT
FOR ONE...



...
DAY
...



OH...



REALLY,
SERIOUS-
LY?!

D
A
S
H

D
A
S
H
T
R
I
P
S
H

SERIOUS-
LY?!

G
R

A
B

OH!

D
A
S
H

C
R
A
S
H

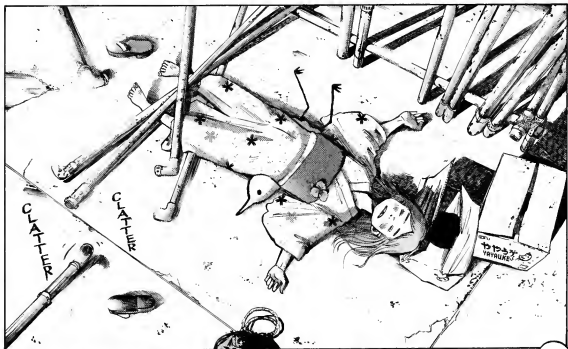
THIS
IS
BAD!

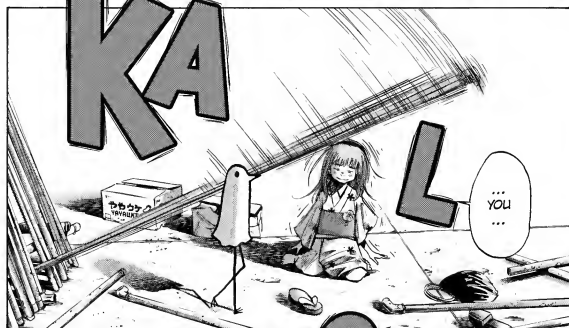
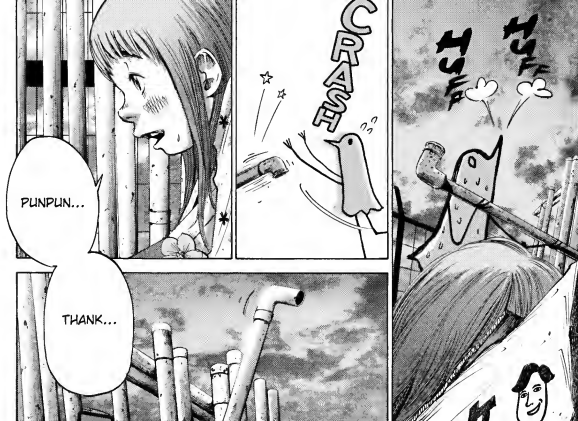
SERI-
OUSLY
BAD!!

D
A
S
H

D
A
S
H







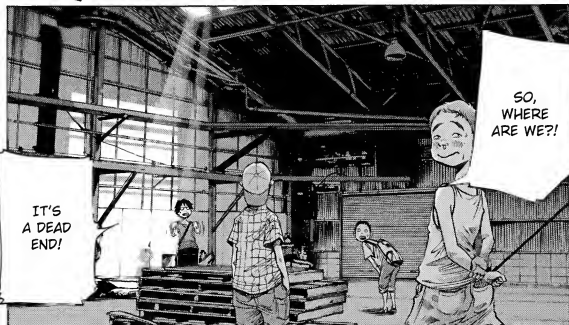
"Aiko?!"



NO IDEA,
I'M JUST
RUNNING!

HEY,
HARUMIN!

IS THIS
THE WAY
WE CAME
IN?!



IT'S
A DEAD
END!

SO,
WHERE
ARE WE?!

HEY, SHIMI,
YOU DON'T
ACTUALLY HAVE
KAMEHAMEHA
RAYS!

NEH
HE
HE
HE
HE

STA

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?
IF WE
GO BACK
THERE...

W-W-
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

KA

SH AK

CR

EE

EE

E
AK

NO
WAY...

IT
OPENED
...?

CR

EAK



COME
ON, SHIMI,
YOU TOO.
HURRY
UP!

HURRY,
HURRY
UP!



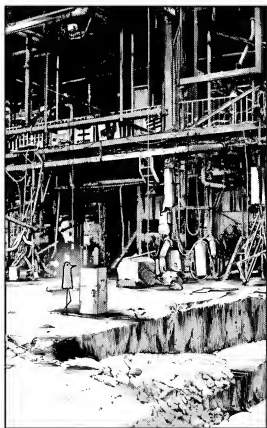
PUNPLIN
AND AIKO
AREN'T
WITH
US...

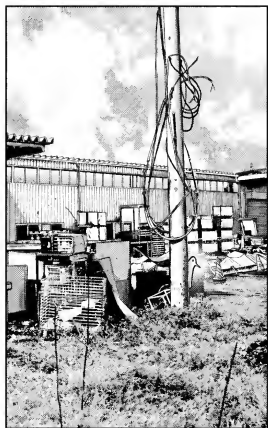


I'LL GO
LOOK
FOR
THEM...

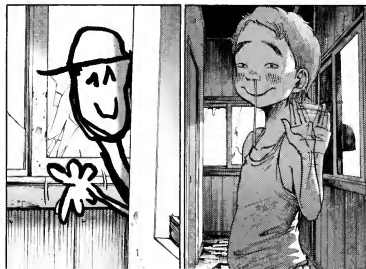
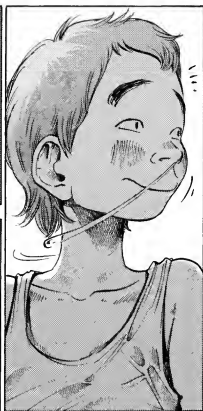
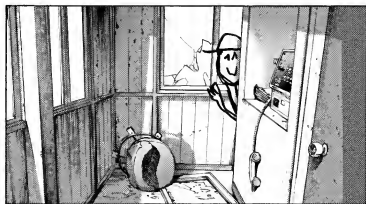
OH...

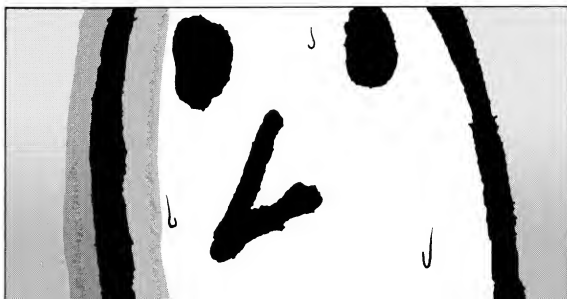
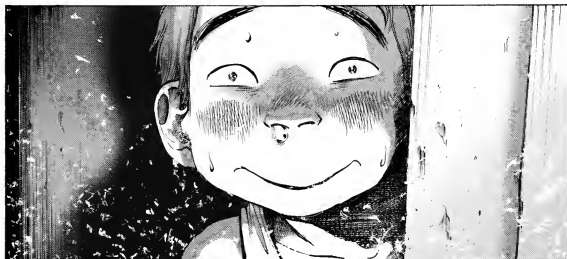
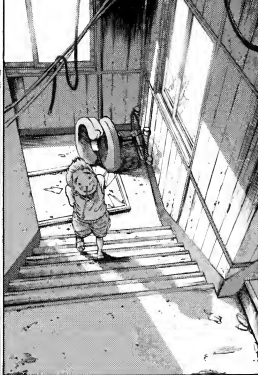






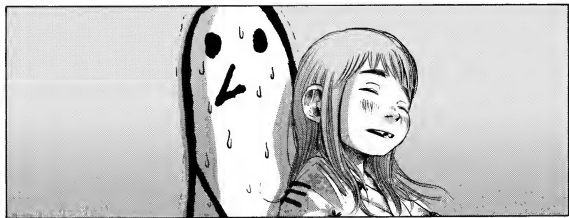




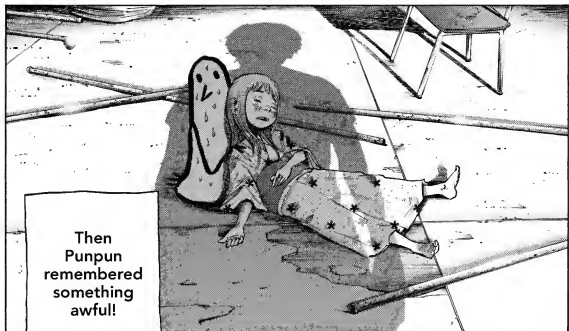
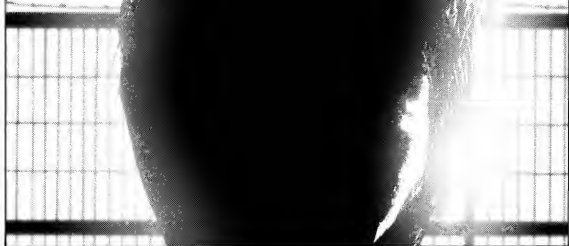




The man
approached so
very slowly that
Punpun couldn't
tell how much
time passed.



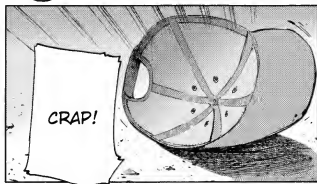
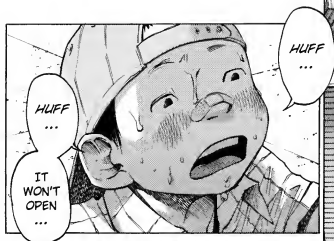
But he had
a feeling that
the man was
trying to tell him
something.



Then
Punpun
remembered
something
awful!



"I really
need to
pee!"



SEKI!

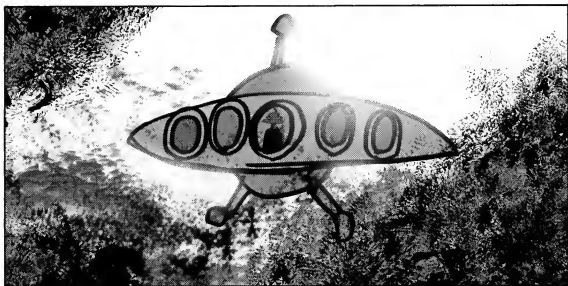
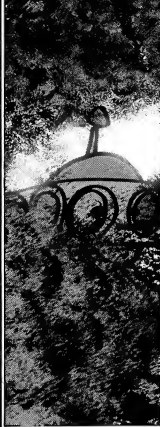


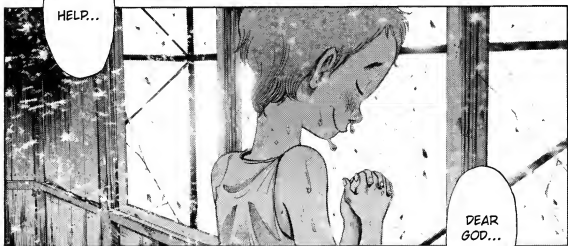
THERE'S
A FIRE!













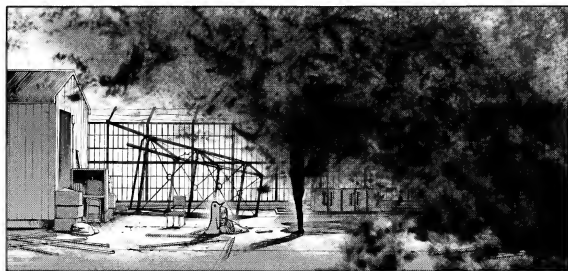
And the
thought that
he might die
there made
his mind go
completely
blank.

Punpun had
no clue what
was going
on.



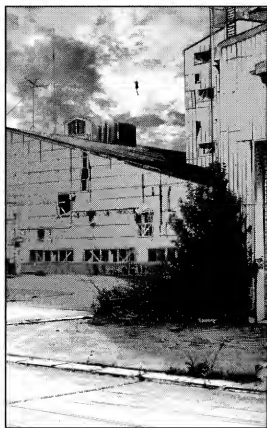
He
heard
that very
clearly.

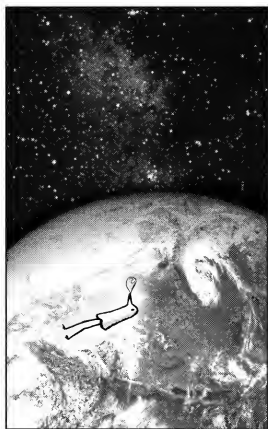
But the
man's
hoarse
whisper...

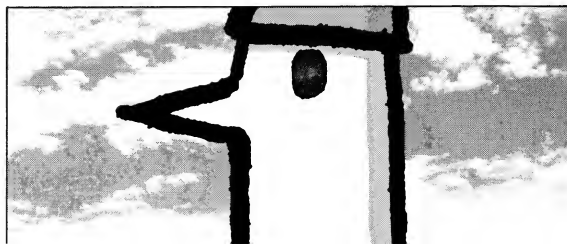
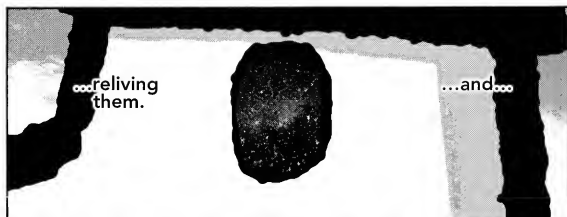


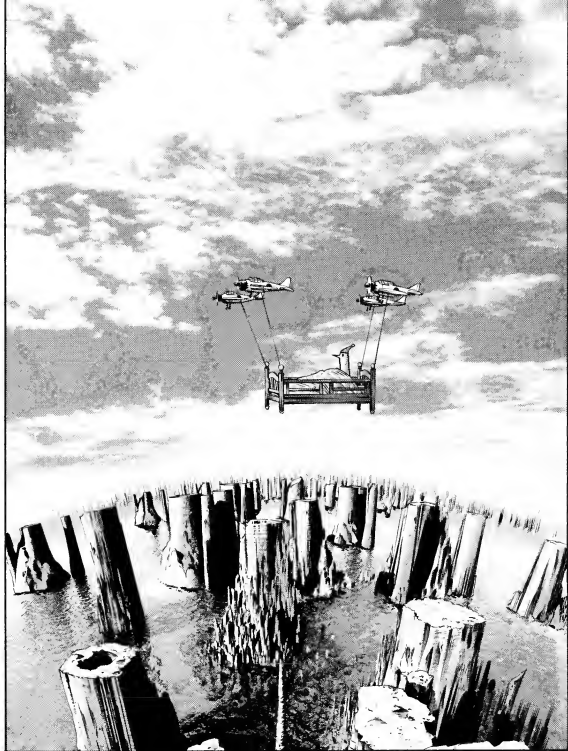


Pupun
had
reached
his limit.









IF YOU
BETRAY
ME AGAIN...

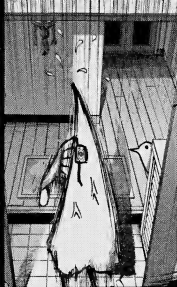
IF YOU
BREAK
THIS
PROMISE

...

HEY,
PUNPUN

...

THERE
IS NO
GOD!



NEXT
TIME
I'LL
KILL
YOU.



I
LIKE
YOU
TOO,
PUNPLIN!

THEN
...

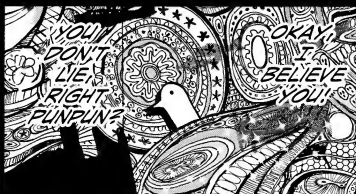


"TEN
IN A
ROW!"

"THE
SWEET
SUCKERS
WE FOUND
IN SHIBUYA."



PUNPLIN...
I HAVE
BAD
NEWS...



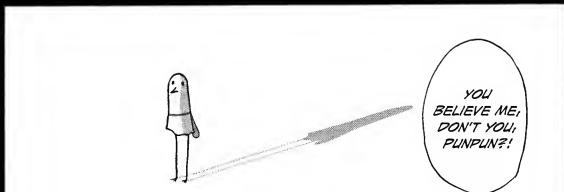
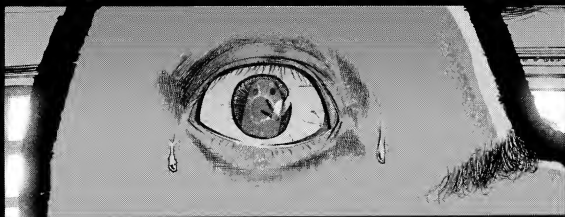
YOU
DON'T
LIE,
RIGHT?
PUNPLIN?

OKAY,
I
BELIEVE
YOU!



DON'T
UNDER-
STAND!
I DON'T
GET IT!

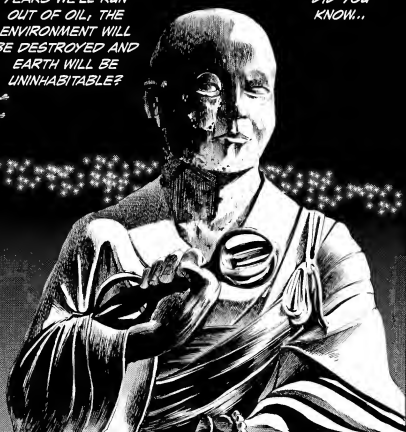
DON'T
GET IT!
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND!



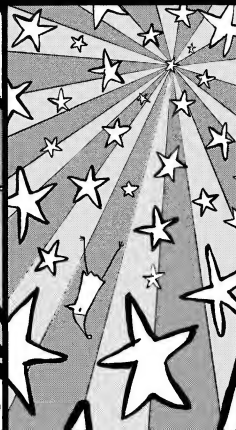
...IN A FEW
YEARS WE'LL RUN
OUT OF OIL, THE
ENVIRONMENT WILL
BE DESTROYED AND
EARTH WILL BE
UNINHABITABLE?

HEY,
DID YOU
KNOW...

UNLESS
WE ALL
MOVE TO
ANOTHER
PLANET,
IT'LL BE
OVER FOR
HUMANITY.



WHAT WAS
THAT?
SAY THAT
AGAIN?



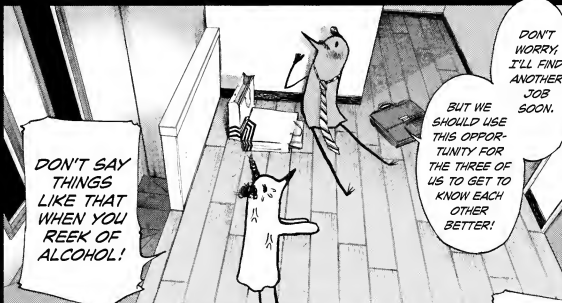


WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN, YOU
THINK IT'S
A GOOD
THING?!

WHAT
ABOUT
MONEY?!
WE HAVE A
MORTGAGE
TO PAY!

I'M
BEING LET
GO AT
THE END
OF THE
MONTH.

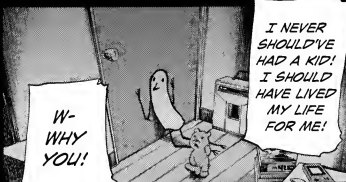
I'VE BEEN
FEELING A
LITTLE OVER-
WORKED, SO
I THINK THIS
IS ACTUALLY
A GOOD
THING.



DON'T SAY
THINGS
LIKE THAT
WHEN YOU
REEK OF
ALCOHOL!

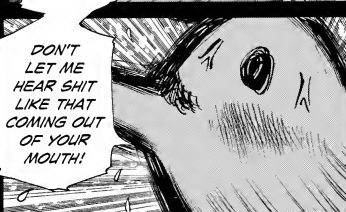
DON'T
WORRY,
I'LL FIND
ANOTHER
JOB
SOON.

BUT WE
SHOULD USE
THIS OPPOR-
TUNITY FOR
THE THREE OF
US TO GET TO
KNOW EACH
OTHER
BETTER!



W-
WHY
YOU!

I NEVER
SHOULD'VE
HAD A KID!
I SHOULD
HAVE LIVED
MY LIFE
FOR ME!



DON'T
LET ME
HEAR SHIT
LIKE THAT
COMING OUT
OF YOUR
MOUTH!



AAAH!
IT WAS
A MIS-
TAKE!

THIS
MARRIAGE
WAS A
MISTAKE!

SOB
SOB
SOB

JUST...

...TAKE
US TO THE
OCEAN.

VROOO

SOME

MA'AM
...

DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
GOING TO
KILL THE KID,
THEN OFF
YOURSELF!

...WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING OUT
SO EARLY
IN THE
MORNING?

ER,
HA HA
HA.

JUST
KIDDING.
THAT'S A
JOKE.



NEVER
MIND, JUST
TAKE US
BACK.



SORRY,
PUNPUN,
BUT WE'RE
SUPER
BEST
FRIENDS.

LOOK,
IT'S LIKE
WE'RE
REALLY
ONE
PERSON.

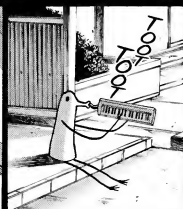
HEY,
PUNPUN.



BUT IF
YOU DO
WHATEVER
WE SAY, YOU
CAN BE OUR
NUMBER-TWO
FRIEND.



CHAK



LIM...

PUN-
PUN?



PUNPUNPUN!



WE'RE
SHORT
ONE.

WANNA
PLAY?!

YOU
KNOW YOU
SHOULDN'T
COME THIS
FAR BY
YOURSELF!

YOUR
MOM AND
DAD ARE
DESPERATELY
LOOKING FOR
YOU RIGHT
NOW!

OH,
THANK
GOD!

I
LOOKED
EVERY-
WHERE!



YEAH,
SORRY-
HE'S
LIKE
THAT.

OH, ALL
THIS WAY
CHASING A
SHOOTING
STAR...

OH,
THANK
YOU,
SORRY
FOR THE
TROUBLE.

YES, YES.
I KNOW
YOU WERE
LONELY AND
WORRIED
ALL BY
YOURSELF.

HE
WON'T
STOP
CRYING,
GEEZ.

I'M HIS
UNCLE...





HEY,
I
KNOW!

HOW
ABOUT I
LET YOU
IN ON
SOME-
THING!

DID
YOU
KNOW...

...THAT GOD
IS ALWAYS
NEARBY FOR
GOOD KIDS
LIKE YOU,
PUNPUN?



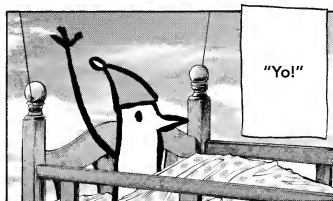
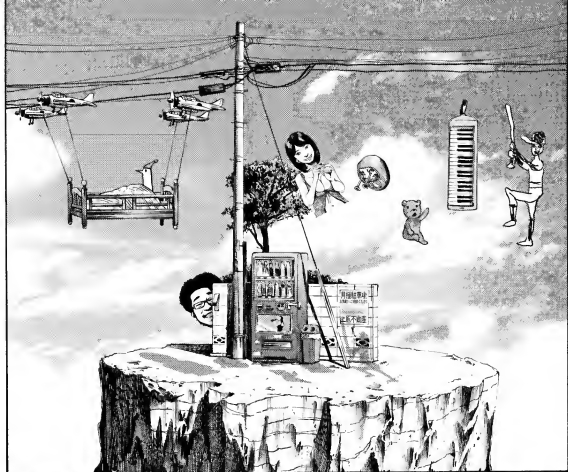
IF YOU
GET
LONELY,
YOU JUST
CHANT THIS
SPELL.

"DEAR
GOD,
DEAR
GOD..."

"...
TINKLE
HOY."



SAHUT-Z



Looking
unusually
serious,
God spoke
to Punpun.



If, no matter
how much
people need
each other
and hurt each
other, there's
still no such
thing as perfect
understanding,
then what
on earth can
you believe in?
Just kidding—
lighten up!



Punpun,
here's
what God
thinks.

Humans,
as long as
they live,
have an
emptiness
inside them
that can
never be
filled.



...let's
stay
friends.



Well,
Punpun
...



THE GOOD,
THE BAD,
THE STUPID,
MOMENTS THAT
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN PRECIOUS
BUT THAT WE
FORGOT...
JUST A LOT OF
THINGS...

MMMM...
WE'VE GONE
THROUGH A
LOT TO GET
WHERE WE
ARE NOW.

WHAT'S ON
YOUR MIND,
HONEY?



...I NEVER
THOUGHT I
WOULD OWN
MY OWN
HOME.

BUT
REALLY
...



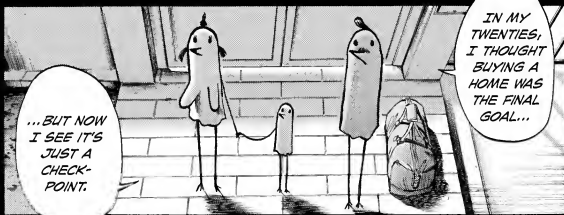
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING? IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU WORKED
HARD FOR IT,
HONEY.

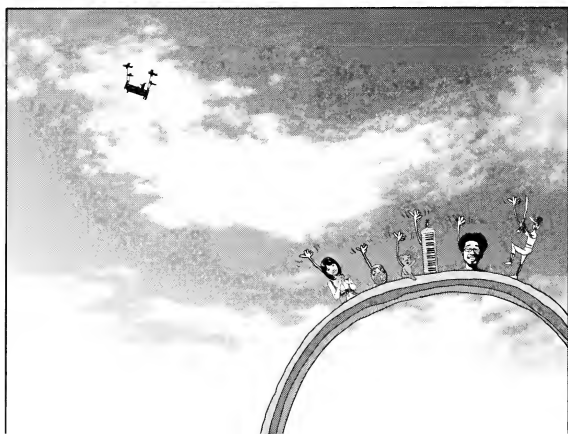
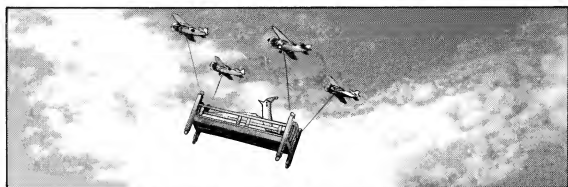
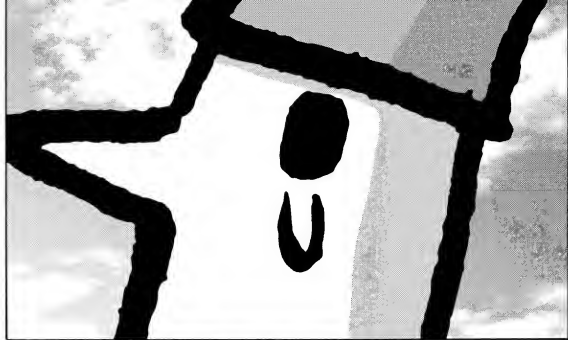


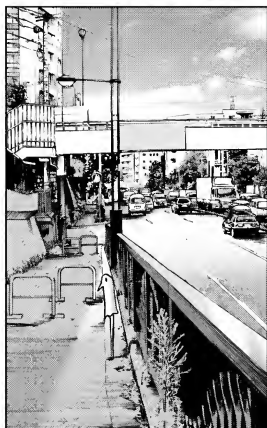
YOU'RE
SO
MANLY
TODAY,
HON.

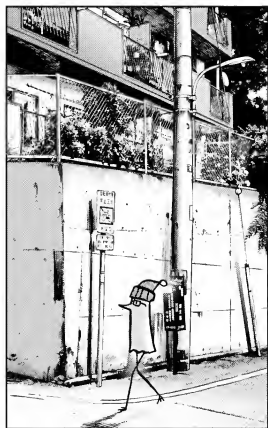
I'M
GOING
TO WORK
HARD
TO PAY
IT OFF
EARLY!

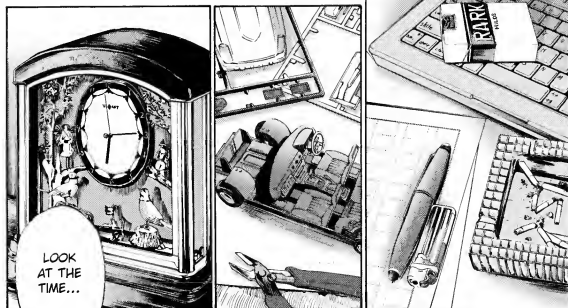
A \$50,000
DOWN
PAYMENT AND
BY THE TIME
WE FINISH
REPAYING THE
25-YEAR
MORTGAGE,
THIS ONE HERE
WILL BE AN
ADULT.



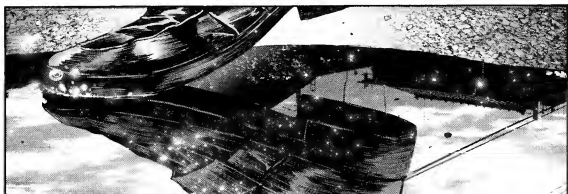
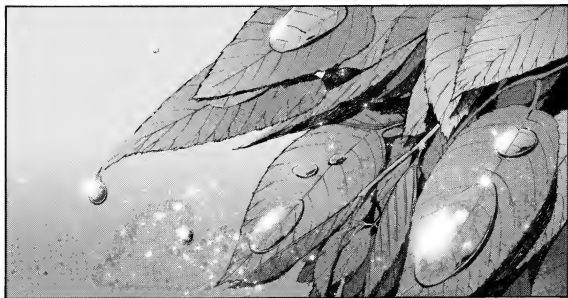
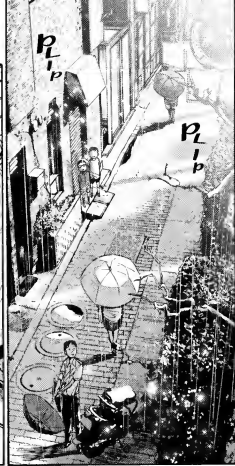


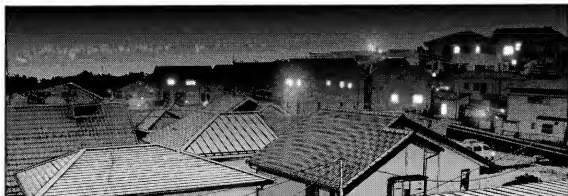
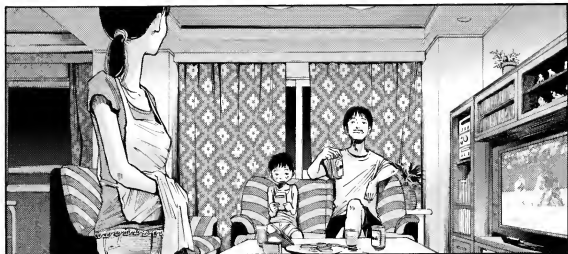
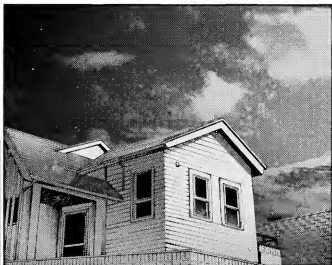


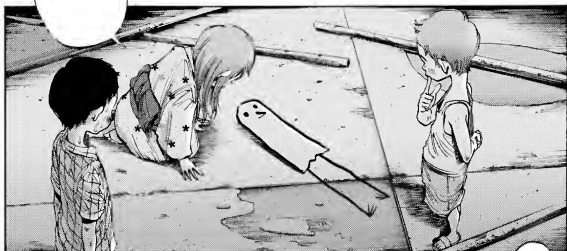


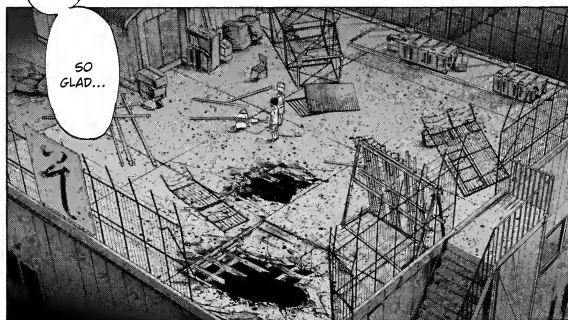
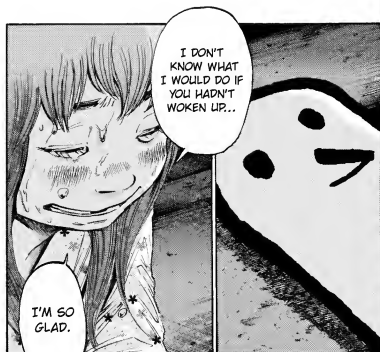




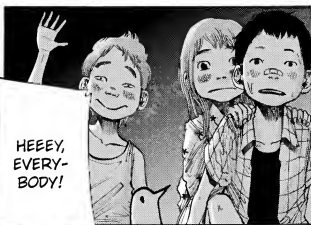










A black and white manga panel showing three children. On the left, a boy with spiky hair waves his right hand. In the center, a girl with long hair looks forward. On the right, a boy with short hair looks forward. They are all smiling and shouting.

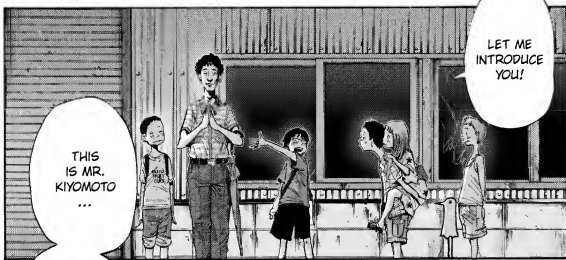
HEEEY,
EVERY-
BODY!

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a boy with glasses. He is smiling and looking down, with sweat drops on his face. The sound effect 'HUF HUF' is written near his mouth.

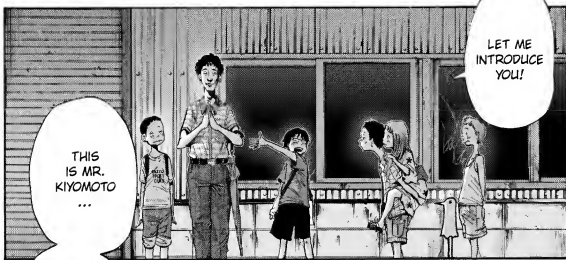
SO
GLAD
YOU'RE
OKAY...

A black and white manga panel showing a group of children running in a courtyard at night. In the background, there is a building with a balcony. A large speech bubble from the children above is visible in the top left.

HEEEY!

A black and white manga panel showing a man in a plaid shirt and dark pants standing in front of a building with large windows. He is introducing a group of children to another group of children. One child is pointing towards the man.

LET ME
INTRODUCE
YOU!

A black and white manga panel showing a man in a plaid shirt and dark pants standing in front of a building with large windows. He is introducing a group of children to another group of children. One child is pointing towards the man.

THIS
IS MR.
KIYOMOTO
...

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a boy with glasses. He is looking down with a sad or thoughtful expression, with sweat drops on his face.

...A
MEDIUM WHO
JUST HAP-
PENED TO BE
PASSING BY!



THERE
IS AN
EVIL
SPIRIT
LIVING
HERE!



IT'S
TERRI-
FYING!



I'M
OKAY. I
CAN WALK
NOW.

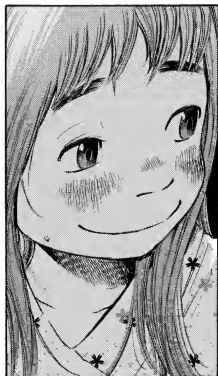
SEKI...



OKAY,
LET'S GO
HOME
THEN...

UHH
...

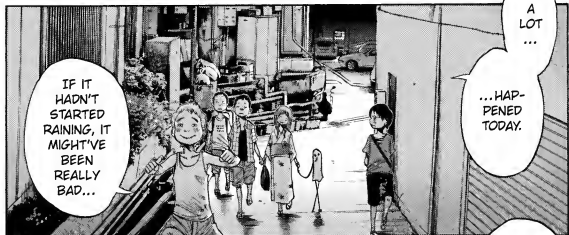
AWFUL!



OWWWW

...

HEY,
TAKE IT
EASY.



IF IT
HADN'T
STARTED
RAINING, IT
MIGHT'VE
BEEN
REALLY
BAD...

A
LOT
...

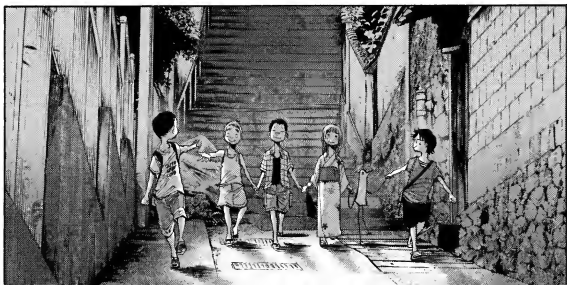
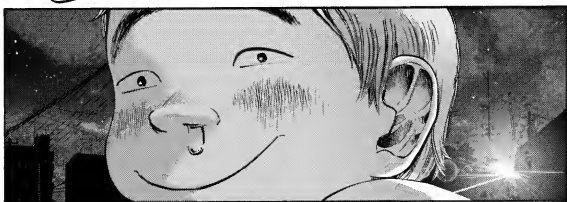
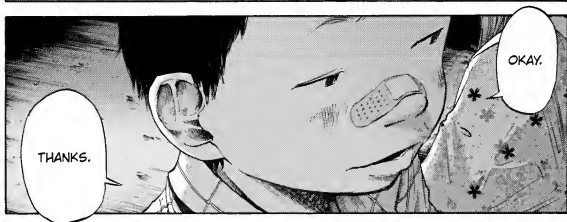
...HAP-
PENED
TODAY.

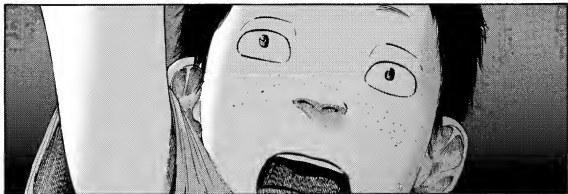
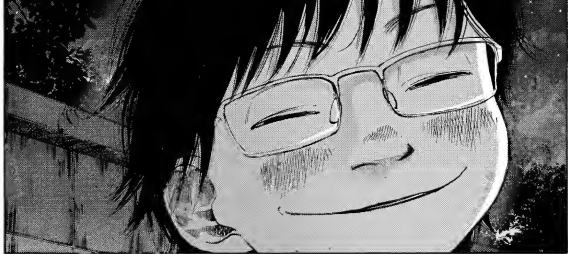


JUST LIKE
THE POOP
GOD SAID, I
TRIED TO DO
THE RIGHT
THING...

...AND IT
STARTED
POURING!

SHIMIZU!





The thought
almost made
him cry.

In spite of
everything,
he wouldn't
be able to
deliver on his
promise to
Aiko.

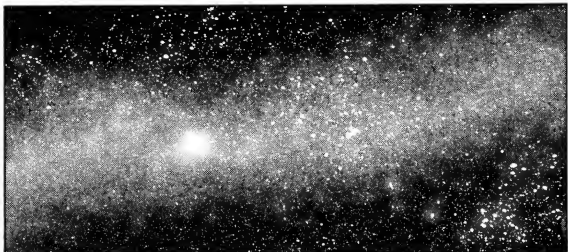
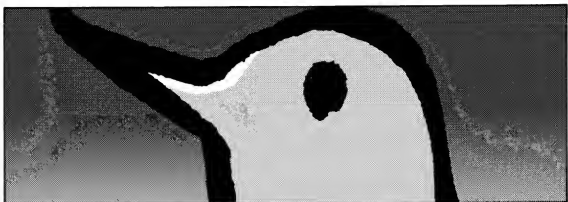
Even
Punpun could
understand
the situation.



...so
Punpun
held
tight to
it.

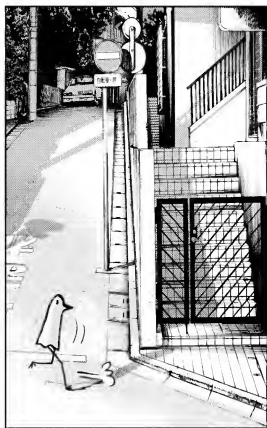
...and
small in
his...

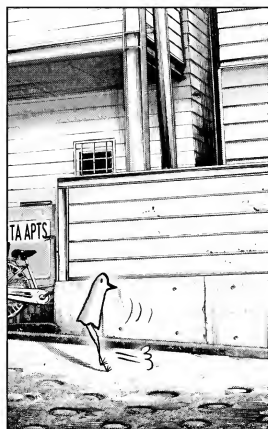
But Aiko's
hand was
soft and
warm...



For some
reason, that
thought
settled in
Punpun's
mind.

"The sky is
so full of stars
it's about to
overflow. I hope
I get to see it
again someday."







BASED ON HIS
STATEMENT, THE
BODIES OF A MAN
AND TWO WOMEN
WERE FOUND IN
AN ABANDONED
MISO FACTORY.
THEY ARE
BELIEVED TO
HAVE BEEN DEAD
FOR SEVERAL
MONTHS.

A MAN TURNED
HIMSELF IN TO
THE POLICE
IN THE EARLY
HOURS OF THE
MORNING,
CLAIMING HE HAD
MURDERED HIS
ENTIRE FAMILY.

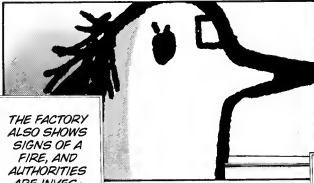


OH...
THAT BIG
FACTORY?
WHEN DID IT
GO OUT OF
BUSINESS?

OH!

I KNOW
THAT
FACTORY!
YOU GO
DOWN K
HIGHWAY...

HEY,
CAN YOU
FIX THE
PICTURE
ON THE
TELEVISION?



THE FACTORY
ALSO SHOWS
SIGNS OF A
FIRE, AND
AUTHORITIES
ARE INVESTIGATING
WHETHER IT IS
CONNECTED TO
THIS CASE.



THE
SUSPECT
FURTHER
TESTIFIED,
"WE ARGUED
ABOUT WORK
AND I LOST
CONTROL AND
KILLED THEM."

★ Chapter 18 ★





WHO
KNOWS?

YOU'RE
BEING
DIS-
CHARGED
TOMOR-
ROW.

YOUR SON
MUST BE
HAPPY.



I DON'T
LIKE KIDS
AND I DON'T
WANT TO GO
HOME.



IF I
WERE A
GUY YOUR
AGE, I'D
EAT YOU
UP.

YOU'RE
SUCH A
SWEET,
SERIOUS
THING...



YOU
KNOW,
I DON'T
BELONG
ANYWHERE
ANYMORE!



UM, NO...
I DON'T
HAVE
A BOY-
FRIEND...

ARE YOU
HAVING
SEX?!

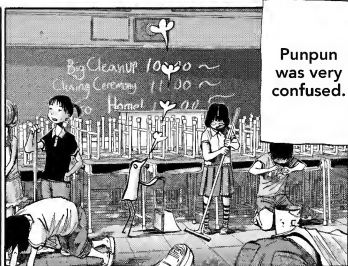
HOW
GREAT
TO BE
YOUNG!



OH
NO...
DON'T
TALK LIKE
THAT...

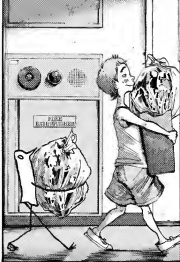


But he knew that no matter how confused he was, it wouldn't solve anything, and he was even a little angry that he couldn't be anything but confused.



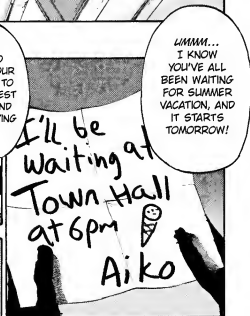
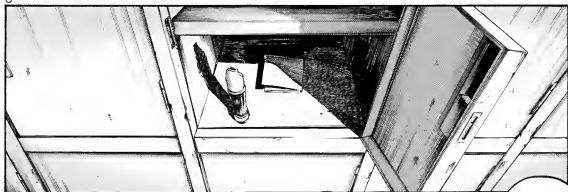
"...Aiko
will kill
me!"

"If I don't do
something..."



BANG BANG BANG







THAT'S
RIGHT!
I'M GOING
TO POUND
IT!

GO ALL
OUT!!

THAT'S SO
COOL... SO
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO HIDE
TO DO PWC
ANYMORE,
HARUMIN...

SHWA

WE'RE
MOVING TO A
HOUSE THAT'S
THREE STORIES
TALL AND HAS
A GARAGE AND
UNDERFLOOR
STORAGE AND ITS
SUPER HUGE!

BUT OF
COURSE,
PWC WILL
NEVER
DIE...

AND I
FINALLY
GET MY
OWN
ROOM.

SHWA

SO WHEN
MY DAD TOLD
ME WE WERE
GOING TO BUILD
A HOUSE,
I WAS SUPER
PSYCHED...

I HATED
SHARING A
ROOM WITH
MY SISTER
IN THE
APARTMENT...

BUT,
WELL
...

OH,
SORRY!
WAIT
HERE A
SEC!

I'M
NOT THAT
EXCITED
ANYMORE...

BUT I
DON'T
KNOW
...





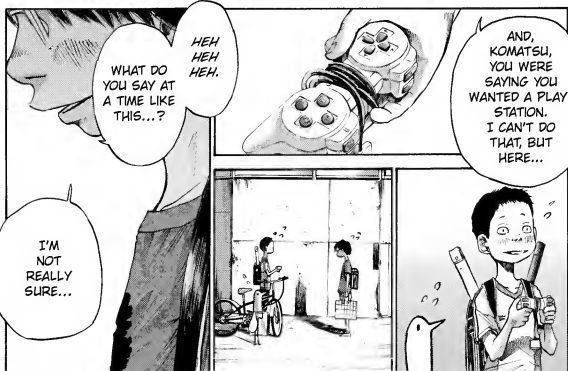
VROOM
VROOM
VROOOOM!

VROOM
VROOM
VROOOOM!



AND
BESIDES,
PUNPUN, YOU
WERE SO
JEALOUS OF
MY SIX-SPEED,
SO...

WELL, YOU
KNOW IT'S
GOOD TO GET
RID OF THINGS
WHEN YOU
MOVE, RIGHT?

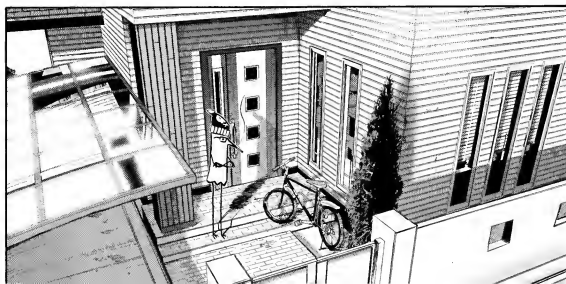


WHAT DO
YOU SAY AT
A TIME LIKE
THIS...?

HEH
HEH
HEH.

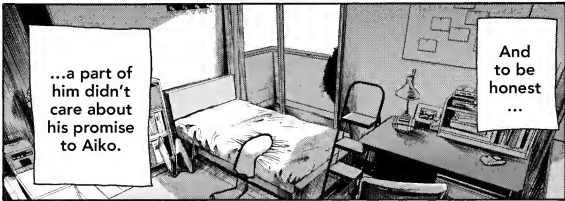
AND,
KOMATSU,
YOU WERE
SAYING YOU
WANTED A PLAY-
STATION.
I CAN'T DO
THAT, BUT
HERE...

I'M
NOT
REALLY
SURE...





For some reason, Pulpun felt very lonely.



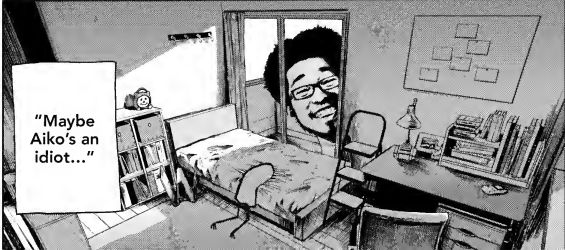
...a part of him didn't care about his promise to Aiko.

And to be honest ...



"And really, why do I have to get killed just for breaking a promise?"

"Kagoshima is far away, and there's no way we can get there. We're just kids."



"Maybe Aiko's an idiot..."

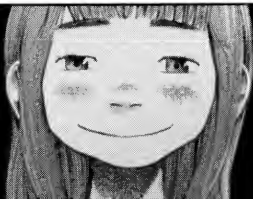


Punpun
could
only
laugh.

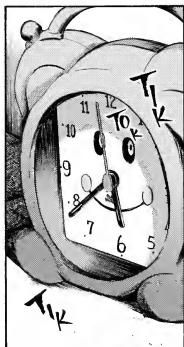


It was
hysterical.

"...NEXT
TIME,
I'LL
KILL
YOU."



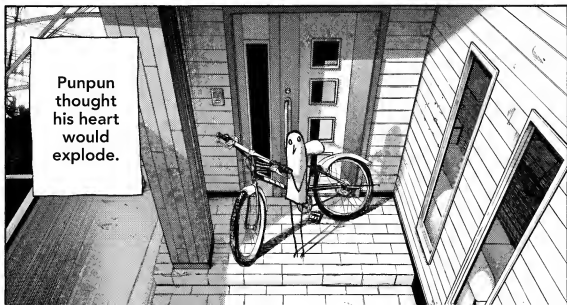
"IF YOU
BETRAY
ME AGAIN..."



"I wonder
if Aiko
will kill me
painlessly...?"



Punpun
thought
his heart
would
explode.





"On a six-speed,
we might make
it to Kagoshima..."



MRS.
PUN-
YAMA!

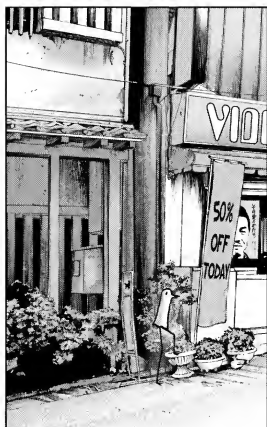
I NEED
TO TAKE
YOUR
TEMPERA-
TURE...

OH,
SHE'S
NOT
HERE.





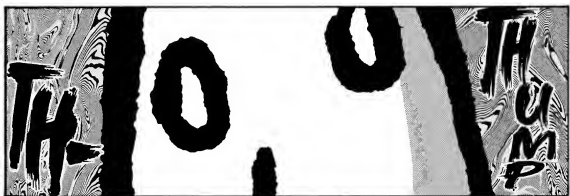
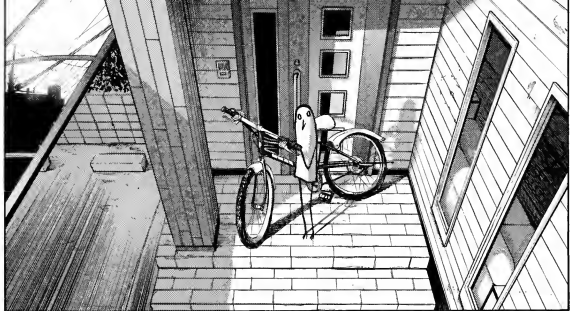


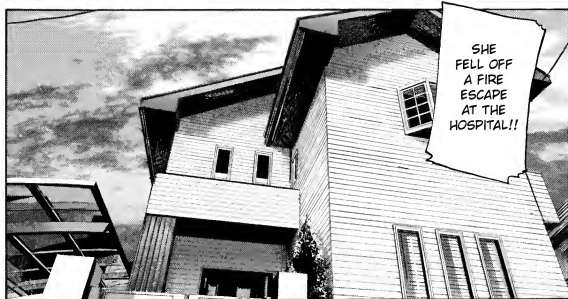


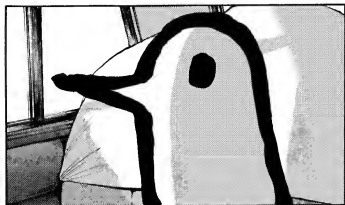


Chapter 19 ★★









Punpun had
pretty much
been forced
into the taxi.



OHHH...
WELL, THIS
ROAD BACKS
UP THIS TIME
OF DAY, SO I'LL
GO AROUND BY
TOWN HALL.

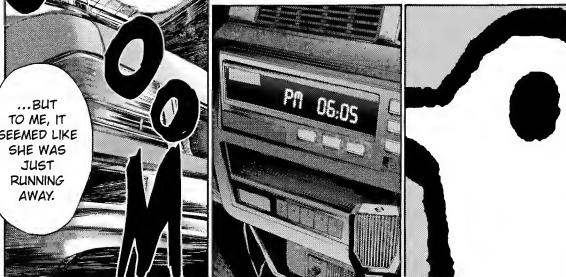
FINE, JUST
STEP ON IT,
PLEASE.



THAT
STUPID
SISTER
OF MINE...

...Punpun
was feeling
a little
relieved.

But
actually...





I THINK
YOU CAN
ONLY GAIN
TRUE
FREEDOM...

...WHEN
YOU'RE WILLING
TO THROW
AWAY
EVERYTHING!

BECAUSE
AFTER ALL
THAT, SHE
JUST CAME
HOME!

THAT
WAS THE
LEVEL
OF HER
COMMITMENT!

...really,
really
scared.

Aiko
was also
probably...

Probably...



ALAS!

BECAUSE
"HAPPINESS"
DESCRIBES
MOMENTS,
AND IT'S
NEVER
PERMANENT!

BUT I
DON'T THINK
THERE'S
REAL
HAPPINESS
IN THAT
FREEDOM!

PEOPLE
ARE LOST,
DESTINED
TO CHASE A
TRUTH THAT
DOESN'T
EXIST!

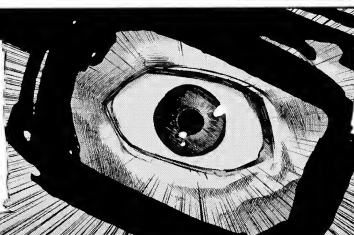
... "if Aiko
gets scared
and doesn't
come to the
meeting
spot..."

"How
great would
it be,"
Punpun
thought...

Punpun started to believe that was what was really happening.

If that was true, how selfish could she be?!

Maybe Aiko was home right now, shivering and eating choco pies.



HUMANS ARE SUCH WEAK, GREEDY ANIMALS!

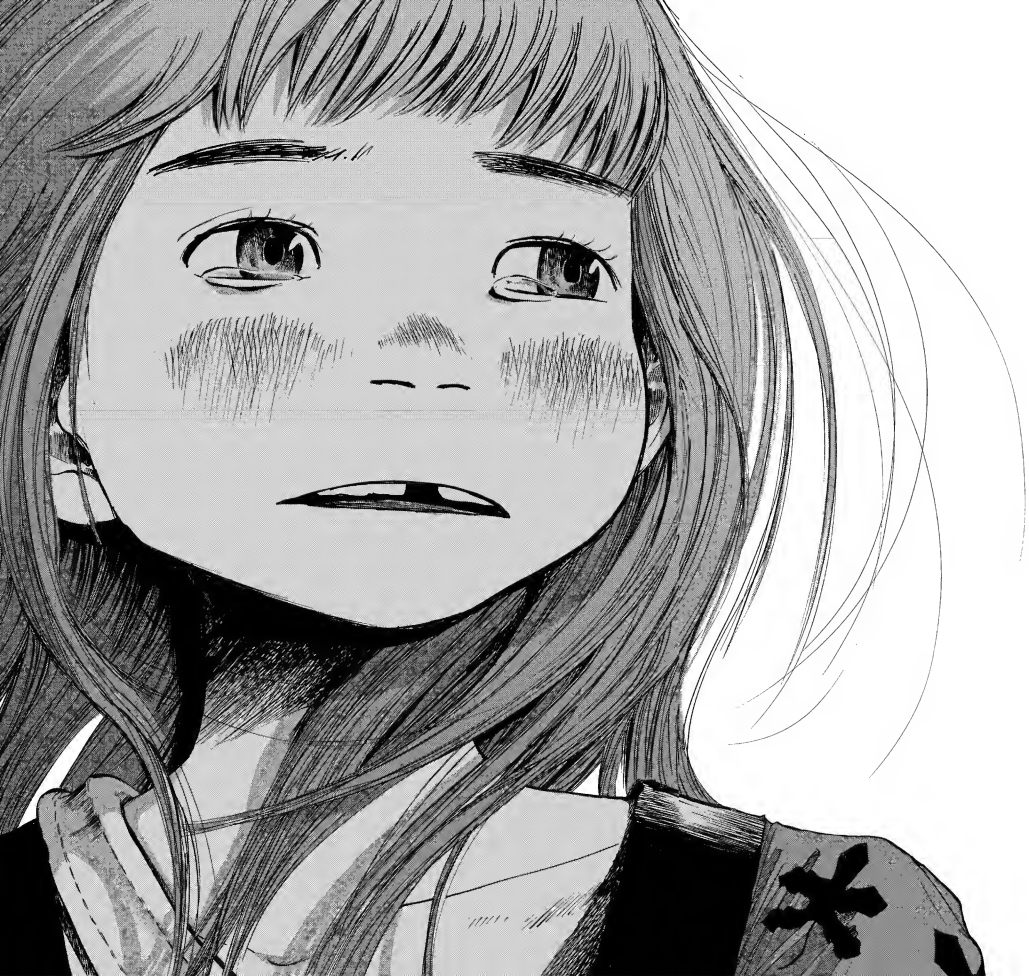
THAT'S WHY I'M ALWAYS IN DESPAIR!

The thought of saying that to her the next time they met lifted Punpun's spirits.

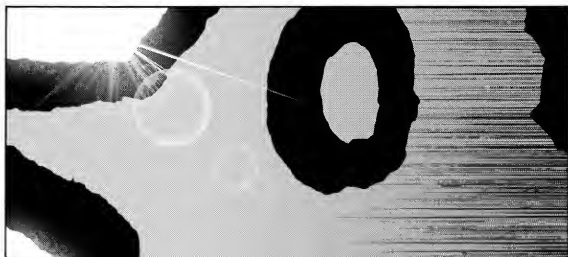
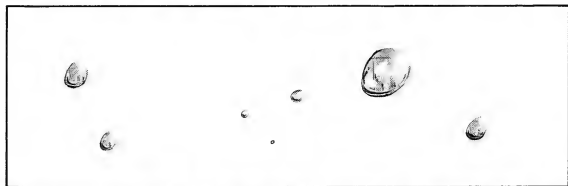
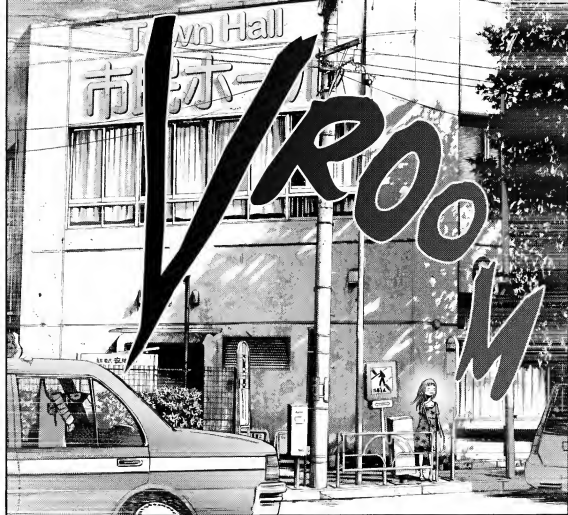
"Weeell, you're just a coward, Aiko...
Nyah nyah!"



HUMANS ...!!









13





...WHAT
THE HELL
IS WRONG
WITH YOU?



FIRST OF
ALL, LET ME
JUST SAY...



MY
HAND
JUST
SLIPPED.

WHAT?
IT'S NOT
LIKE I
JUMPED.



WHATEVER,
NEVER MIND.
YOU'RE STILL
GETTING
DISCHARGED
TOMORROW,
AND YOU'LL GET
OUTPATIENT
TREATMENT
FOR YOUR
FRACTURE.

I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU AND
PUNPLIN BEING
ALONE, SO I'LL
HANG AROUND
AWHILE
LONGER...



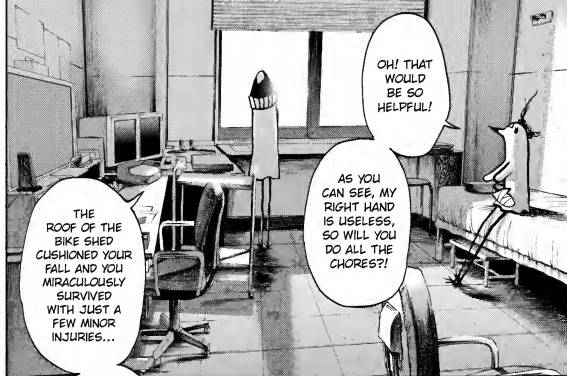
OH, REALLY!
YOUR HAND
SLIPPED AND
YOU FELL FROM
A THIRD-FLOOR
BALCONY? HOW
VERY SKILLED
OF YOU!



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
"LET'S
SAY"?



WELL
THEN,
LET'S SAY
MY FOOT
SLIPPED.



THE
ROOF OF THE
BIKE SHED
CUSHIONED YOUR
FALL AND YOU
MIRACULOUSLY
SURVIVED
WITH JUST A
FEW MINOR
INJURIES...

OH! THAT
WOULD
BE SO
HELPFUL!

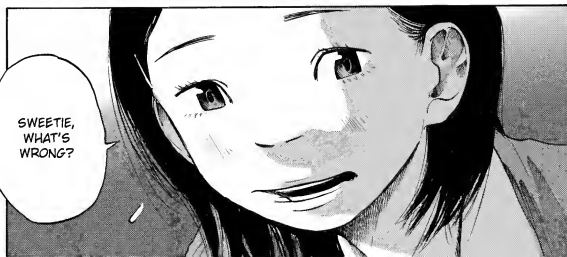
AS YOU
CAN SEE, MY
RIGHT HAND
IS USELESS,
SO WILL YOU
DO ALL THE
CHORES?!



WHAT A
POINTLESS
MIRACLE!



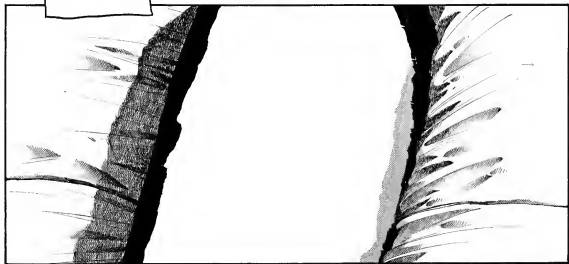
THAT'S
A HARSH
THING TO
SAY.



SWEETIE,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

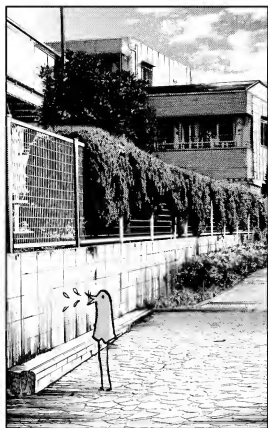


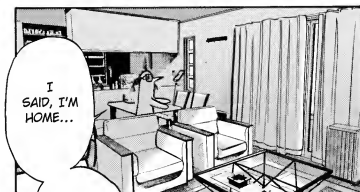
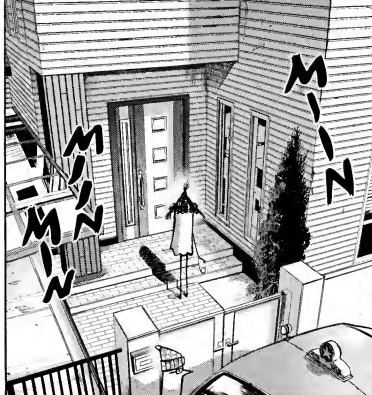
Punpun
thought...



"It would be
okay if the earth
exploded right now."







I
SAID, I'M
HOME...

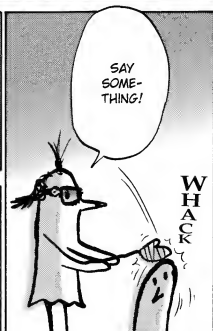
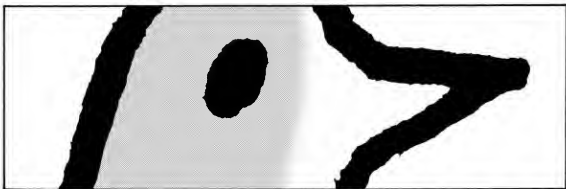


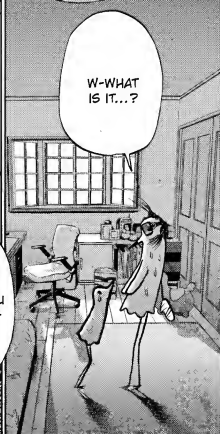
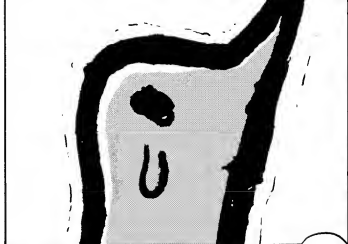
I'M HOME!



PUNPUN,
WHERE ARE
YOU...?

Chapter 20 ★





W-WHAT
IS IT...?



S-
STOP
IT!

WHA...
WHY
ARE YOU
MAKING
THAT
FACE!



WHAT
?!

WHAT
IS WITH
THAT
KID?!

YEAH. HE'S
BEEN LIKE
THAT SINCE
YESTERDAY.

Punpun
was in
so much
agony.



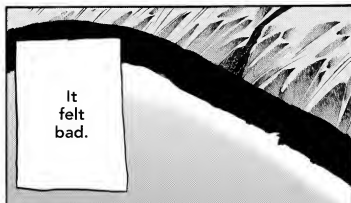
He didn't
think he'd
make it.



Do you feel
better now
that you've
taken it out
on her?



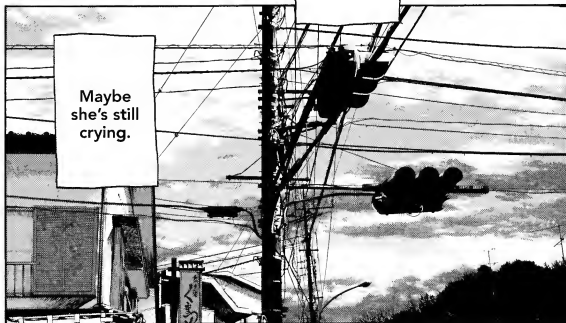
God
loves the
despicable
Mr.
Punyama!



It
felt
bad.



Not
at
all.



He
thought
he would
go crazy.

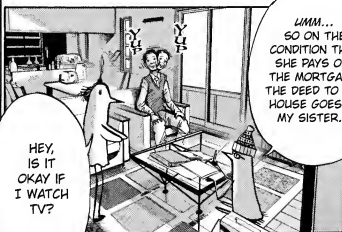
...was
agonizing
for
Punpun.

Thinking
about
what Aiko
might be
thinking...



Punpun
was so
despicable
...

...he
thought
he'd be
better off
dead.



HEY,
IS IT
OKAY IF
I WATCH
TV?

UHM...
SO ON THE
CONDITION THAT
SHE PAYS OFF
THE MORTGAGE,
THE DEED TO THE
HOUSE GOES TO
MY SISTER...

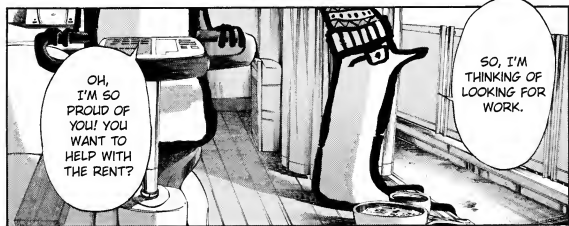


I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY. SCHOOL STARTS TOMORROW, RIGHT?

I'M SURE HE'S FINE. HE'S EATING.



KOMATSU IS ON THE PHONE...



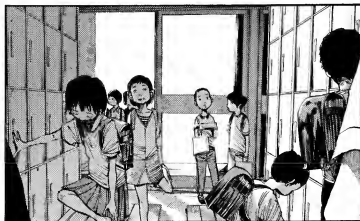
SO, I'M THINKING OF LOOKING FOR WORK.



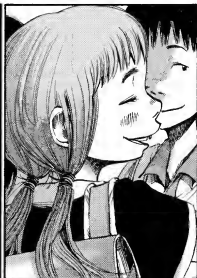
NO... ACTUALLY...

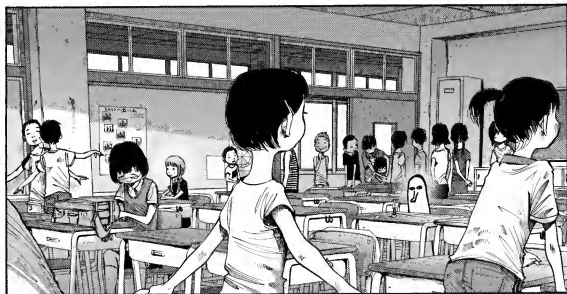


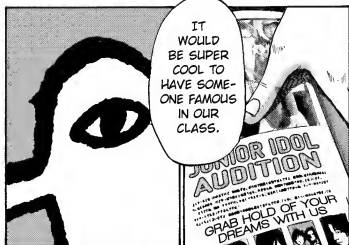
Summer
vacation
just flew
by.



On the
first day
of the new
term, Aiko
came to
school as
usual.







IT
WOULD
BE SUPER
COOL TO
HAVE SOME-
ONE FAMOUS
IN OUR
CLASS.



HEY,
PUNPUN...
YOU LOOK LIKE
YOU SHOULD
BE IN A BOY
BAND.

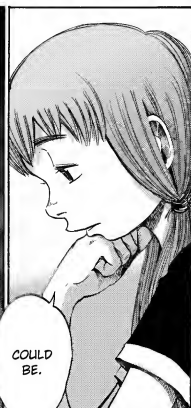


HEY,
AIKO! DON'T
YOU THINK
PUNPUN
COULD BE
IN A BOY
BAND?!

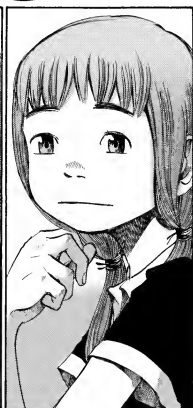
WHY
DON'T YOU
APPLY FOR
THIS?



"Aiko."



COULD
BE.



UMMMM, I
KNOW WE'VE
JUST STARTED
THE NEW
TERM...

...BUT
I'D LIKE TO
INTRODUCE
A NEW
FRIEND!

CLAP
CLAP

HEY, HEY,
HEY!

EVERYONE
IN YOUR
SEATS!

Today's
Helper:
Seki

MY
NAME IS

"Aiko!"

I'M
FROM
SUGINAMI
WARD.



...then
Punpun
strongly
felt that
she should
just get it
over with.

If Aiko
wanted
him
dead...



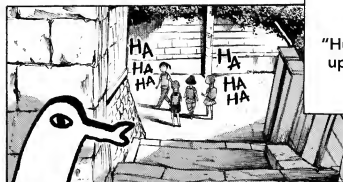
PSYCH!

SINCE
WE HAVE
A NEW
STUDENT
...

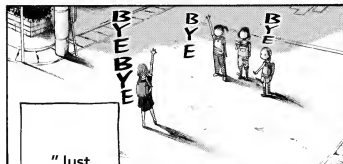
WHAT?!

"Okay..."

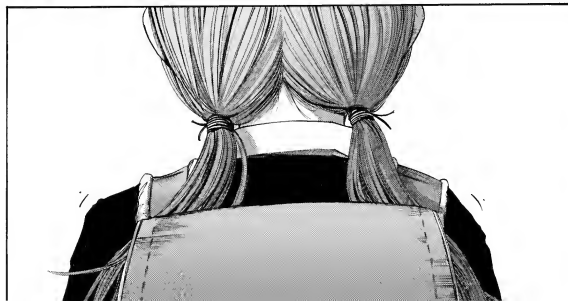
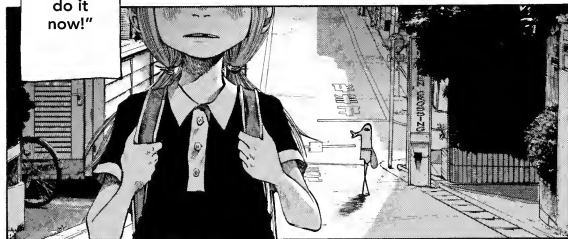
...LET'S
MAKE
THE FIRST
LESSON A
TEST!

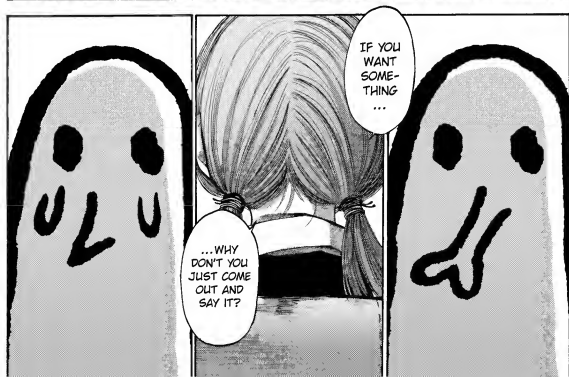


"Hurry up!!"

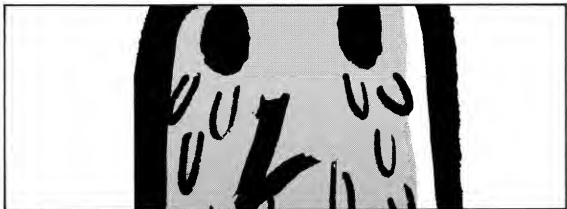


"Just do it now!"





"I don't
want to
die..."



"I'm
sorry..."



Punpun
still...

...really
loved
Aiko.

...he was
completely,
utterly
alone.

...no
matter
how
much he
cried...

But...





...was
completely,
utterly
alone.

Punpun...

But if he
chanted
"Dear God,
dear God,
tinkle
hoy"...

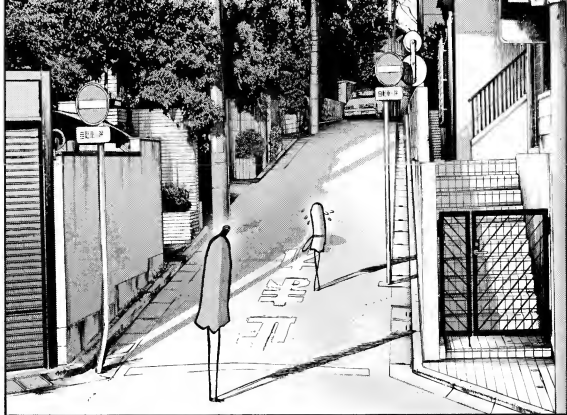
...then
God
would
come.

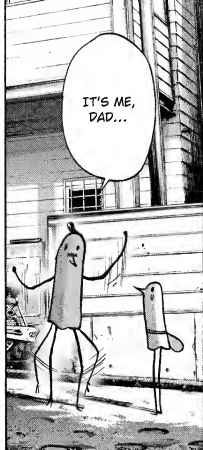


What a
piece of
shit.

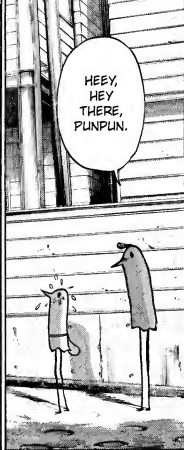
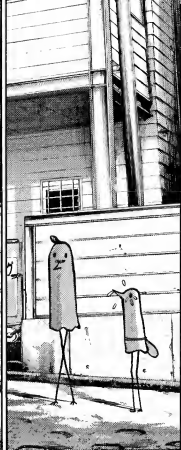


Chapter 21





IT'S ME,
DAD...



HEEY,
HEY
THERE,
PUNPUN.

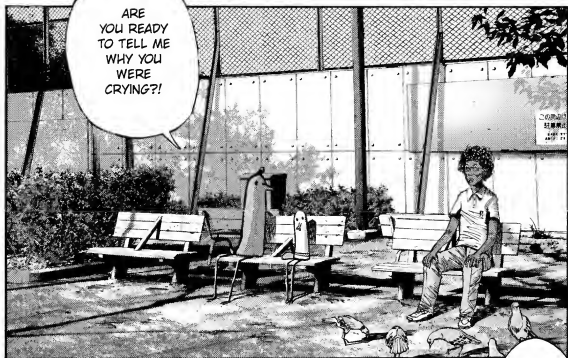


"It's
Dad!"

It
was
Dad!!



AWWWW
RIGHT,
PUNPUN!



ARE
YOU READY
TO TELL ME
WHY YOU
WERE
CRYING?!

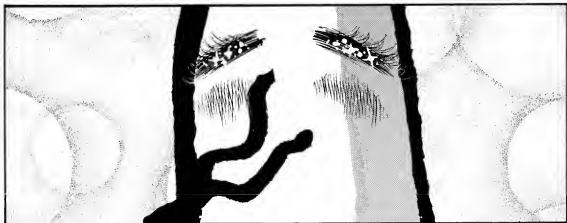
"Seriously,
I wasn't
crying!"

Punpun
wasn't
budging
from that
story.



DID YOUR
FRIENDS
PICK ON
YOU?





BUT THAT
FEELING OF
WANTING TO
TREASURE
HER...

I WANT
YOU TO
BELIEVE
THAT WAS
REAL.

IWAMA
TENNIS
FIGHT ON,
FIGHT ON?

ALL
WE WANT
IS TO
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER,
BUT WE KEEP
CLASHING
THOUGHT-
LESSLY
...

...AND
YOU TELL
YOURSELF,
THAT'S JUST
WHAT PEOPLE
ARE LIKE...

BUT
YOUR DAD'S
A LETCH, SO
HE JUST GETS
INVOLVED WITH
WHOEVER'S
CONVENIENT.

SORRY,
PUNPUN.

IS THIS
BORING
YOU?

YOU
KNOW,
I...

I JUST
WANT
TO TELL
YOU ONE
THING...

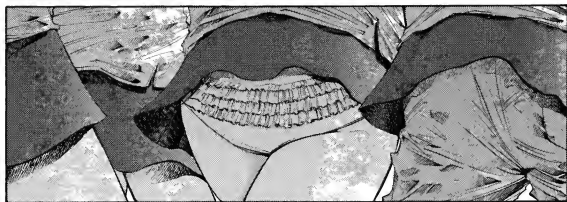
FIGHT ON,
FIGHT ON!

Punpun
just went
with it.

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
TOTALLY
PUNPUN!

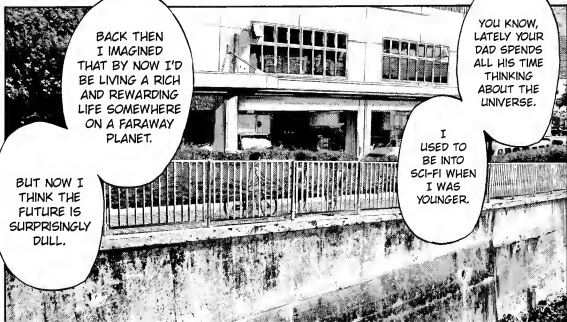
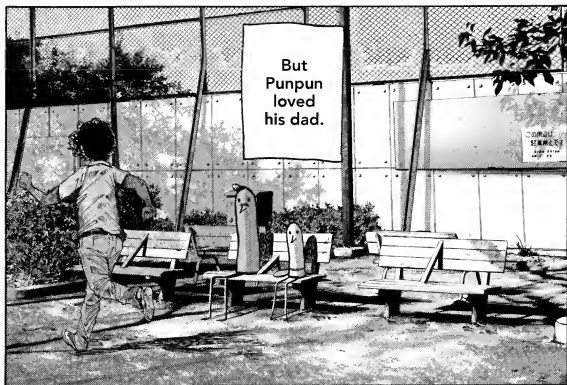
"I get it,
I get it,
I totally
get it!"

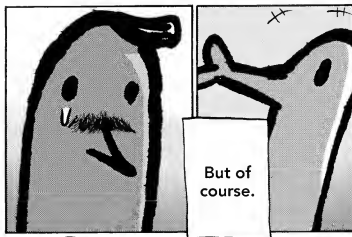
YEAH,
YOU
TOTALLY
GET IT?



...a little
more
down than
usual.

Punpun's
dad
seemed...





But of course.



YEAH...



WHAT?
YOU FOUND
PLANET
PUNPUN
WITH THE
TELESCOPE?!

THAT'S
VERY COOL!
WILL YOU
TAKE ME
TOO?



THANK
YOU...

YOUR
OL' DAD'S
NEVER BEEN
SO HAPPY...!



OOOH!

OH...
OH...



If
Punpun's
friends
saw this,
he would
never live
it down,
but...

IT'S
GETTING
COOLER, SO
DON'T CATCH
COLD, OKAY?

OKAY,
PUNPUN.

...it had
become
autumn
without
him
noticing.

And
Punpun
realized
that...

...Dad
was warm,
and it felt
good to
hug him.

SO
AFTER I
SAY BYE,
I'M GOING
HOME.

...I CAN'T
GET ANY
CLOSER TO
THE HOUSE
THAN
THIS...

YOU
SEE...

"Where?"
Punpun
asked.

THE
TRUTH IS,
I WAS
CHOSEN
TO BE A TEST
PILOT FOR
NASA.

TO
AMERICA
...



IF SHE
FOUND OUT I
WAS WAITING
FOR YOU
AFTER SCHOOL,
WE'D HAVE
ANOTHER
ARGUMENT!
HA HA HA HA!

GO ON!
GET
GOING!

YOUR
MOM
MUST BE
WORRIED!



...Punpun
asked
his dad.

"When
will I
see you
again?"



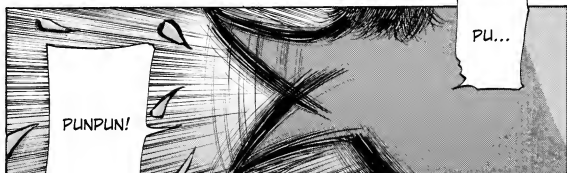
At this,
Punpun
thought
...

"Liar."



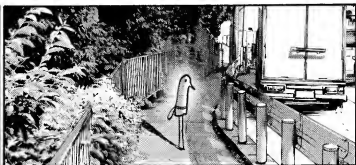
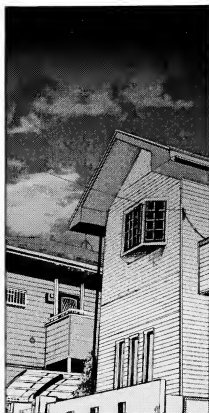
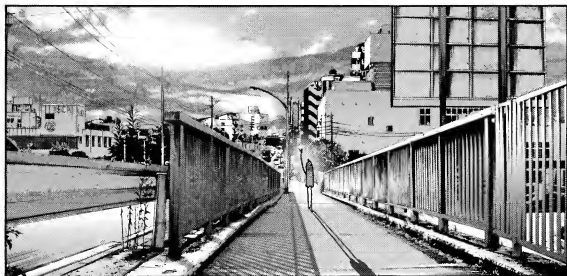
WELL...

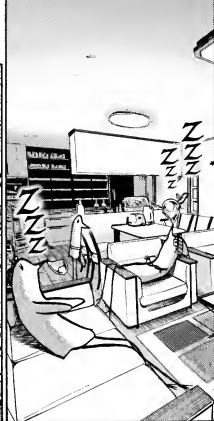
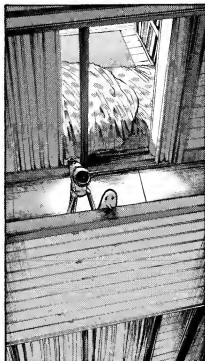
WE CAN
SEE EACH
OTHER
WHENEVER
WE WANT!



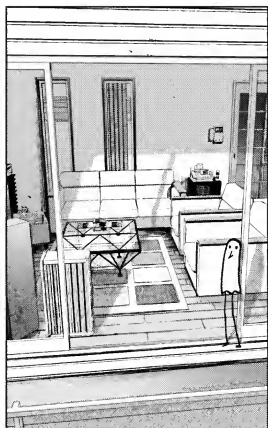


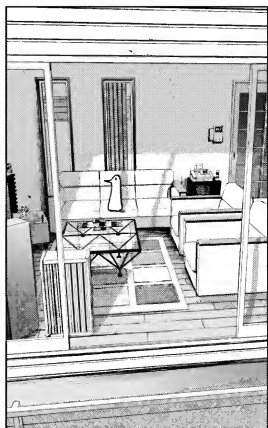
I
LOVE
YOU!



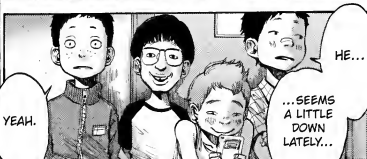
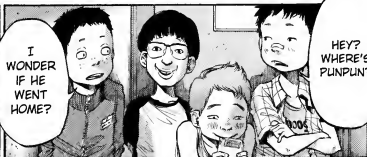
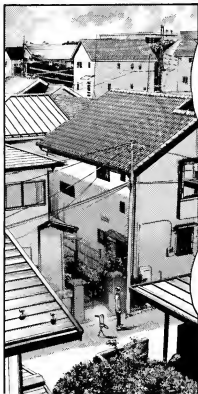


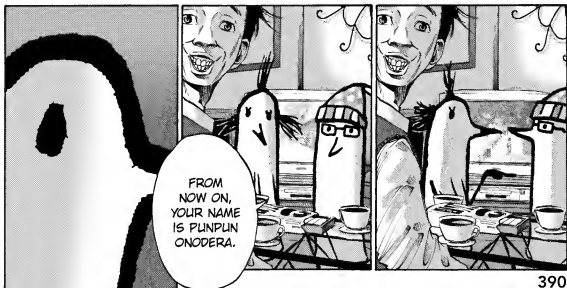
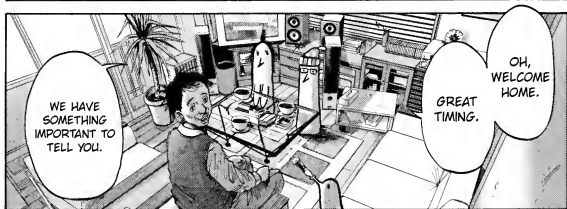
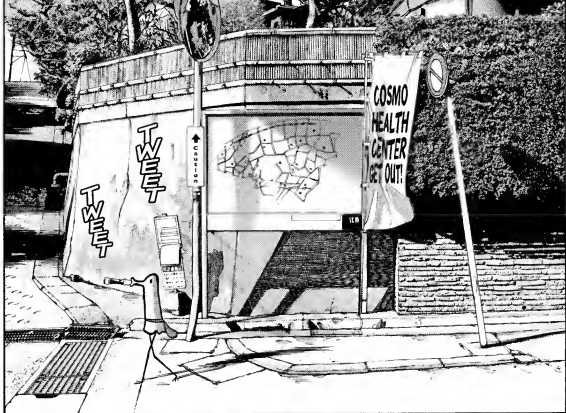
...was
gone.



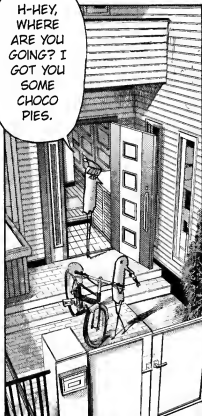


There is a Choir Competition rehearsal, so please stay in class.
—Class Rep





H-HEY,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING? I
GOT YOU
SOME
CHOCO
PIES.



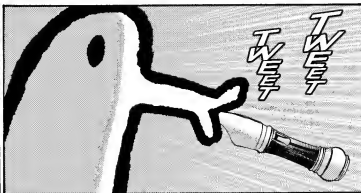
SLAM
SLAM

THE
REASON
IS,
WELL—

YOU'LL
UNDER-
STAND
WHEN
YOU'RE
OLDER.



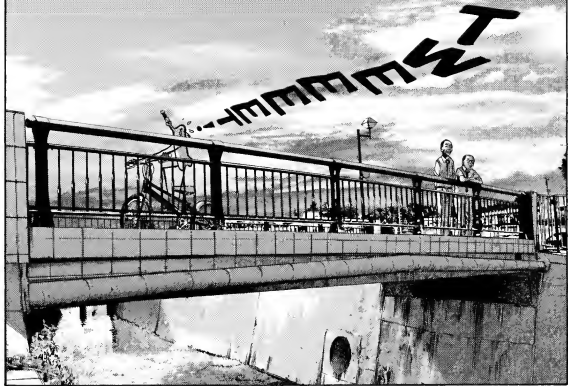
TWEET
TWEET



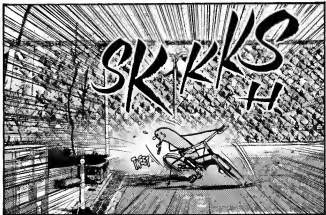
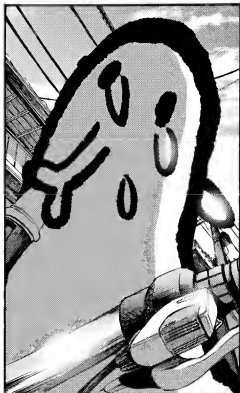
HEEEY!



Even Punpun
had some
grasp of what
was going on!

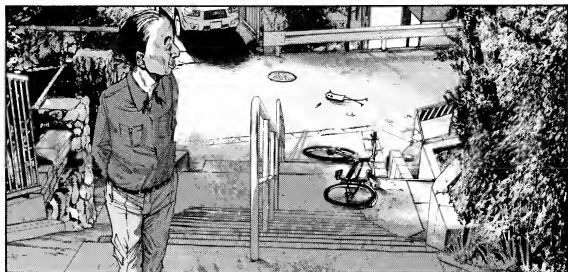


Punpun thought
about how no one
could possibly
understand what he
was going through,
and it felt like his
heart was being
squeezed.

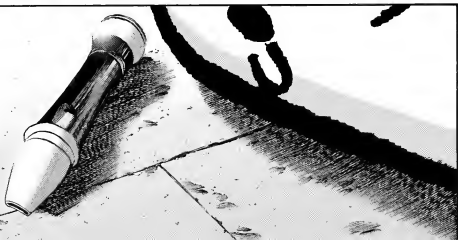


He
was sick
of it!

Always getting
treated like a
little kid...



Punpun
made a
decision.

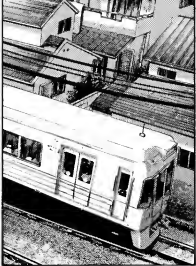




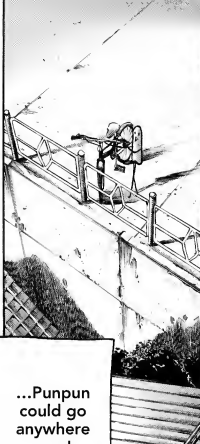
He
decided
he would
become a
grown-up,
starting
today.



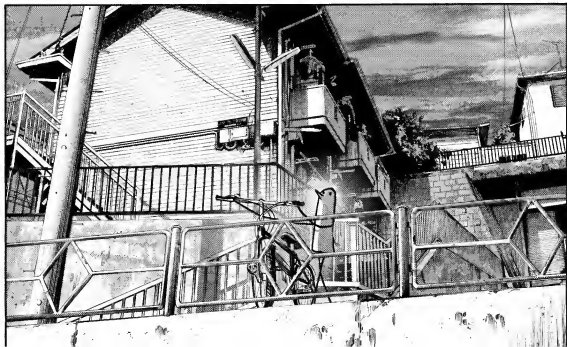
Punpun
wasn't
afraid of
anything
anymore.



No
matter how
far away or
uncharted it
was...

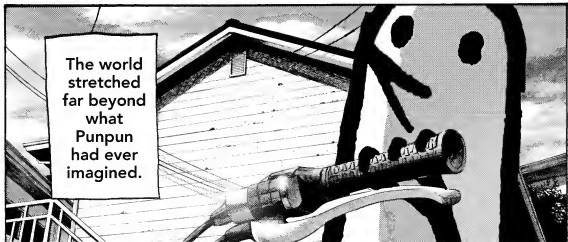


...Punpun
could go
anywhere
now!





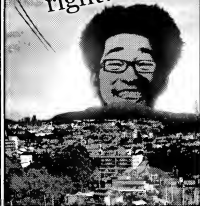
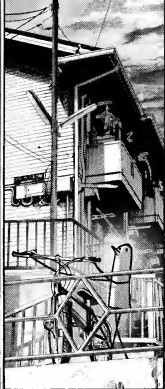
The world
stretched
far beyond
what
Punpun
had ever
imagined.



See,
you're
such a
child.



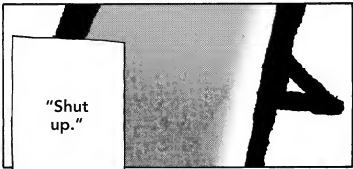
Honestly,
you
thought
about
going
home,
right?



But then,
that's you,
Punpun.



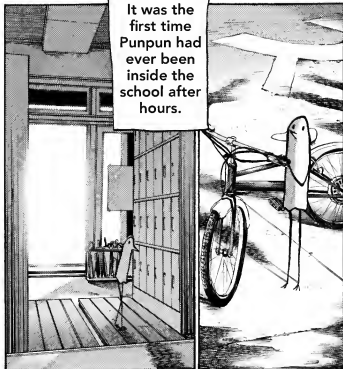
"Shut
up."



Oooh,
scary.



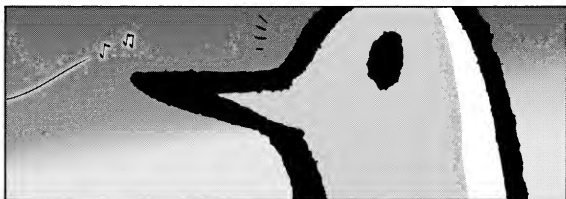
It was the first time Punpun had ever been inside the school after hours.



The silence of the closed school...



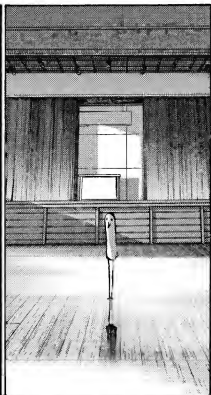
...was
like the
world after
humanity
had been
destroyed.





If he had
to feel
this way...

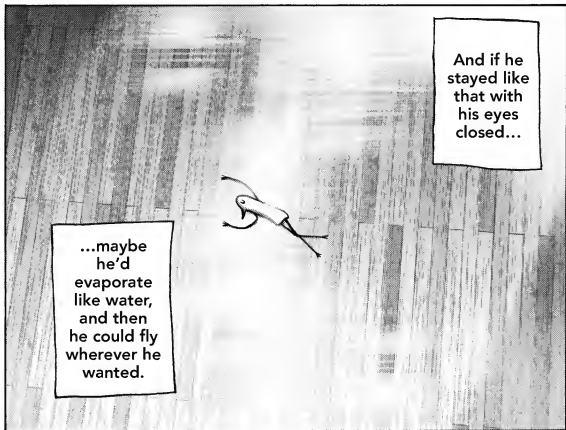
...he'd
have been
better off
being alone
from the
start.



Today,
Punpun
felt very
much
alone.



Today,
the
autumn
light
seemed
very soft.

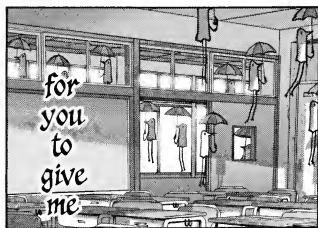


And if he
stayed like
that with
his eyes
closed...

...maybe
he'd
evaporate
like water,
and then
he could fly
wherever he
wanted.



That's
what
Punpun
thought.





©1970 by ALFA MUSIC, INC.



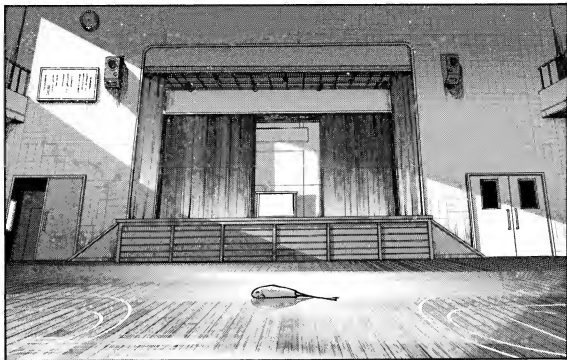


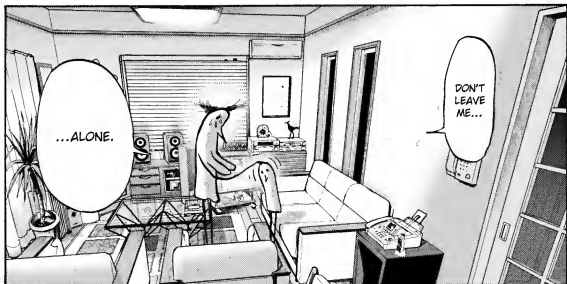
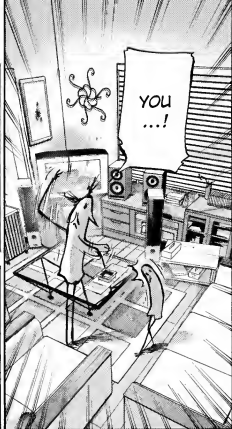
GOODNIGHT

PUNPUN

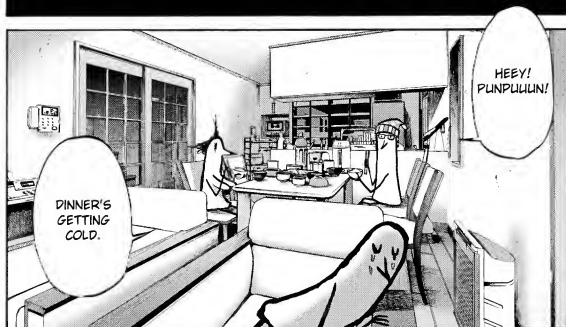
Part
Two

INIO
ASANO

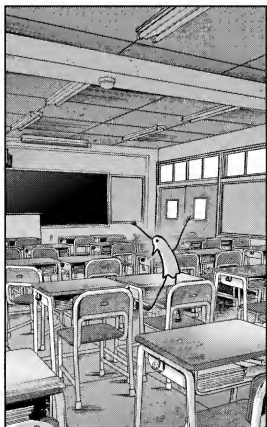


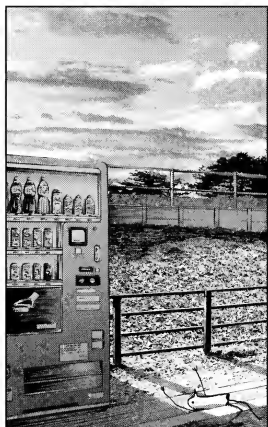


...had no
idea why,
but the tears
wouldn't
stop.



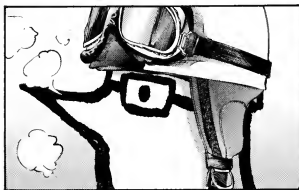
Goodnight,
Punpun.







Two
years
later

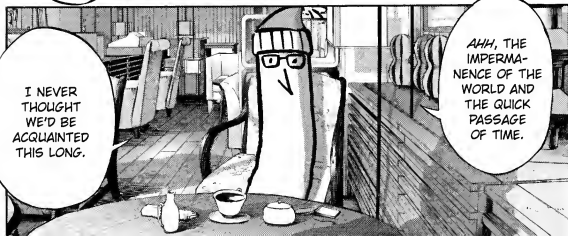
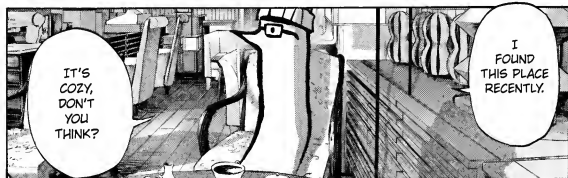


BYE!

I'M OFF
NOW.



BRR...
COLD,
COLD.





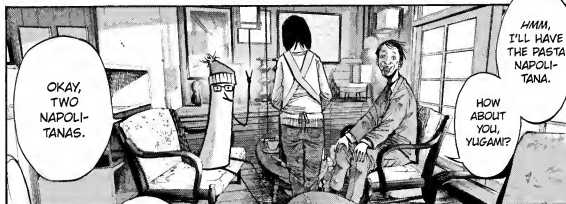
WELL,
WHATEVER
THE REASON,
YOU'RE ONE
OF THE FEW
FRIENDS I
HAVE.

YUP,
YUP!



LET'S
MAKE SURE
WE STAY
FRIENDS.

HA
HA
HA



OKAY,
TWO
NAPOLI-
TANAS.

HMM,
I'LL HAVE
THE PASTA
NAPOLI-
TANA.

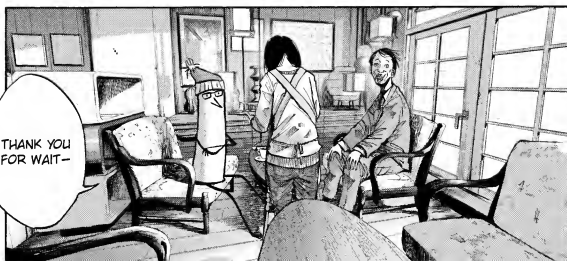
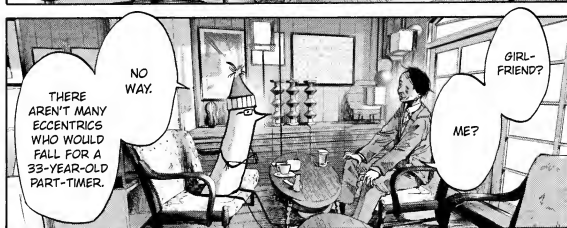
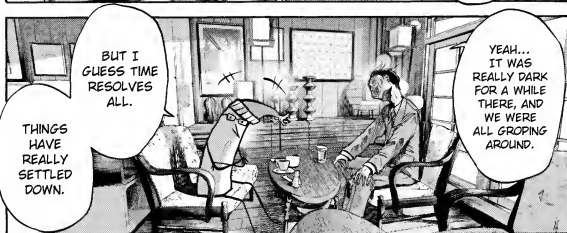
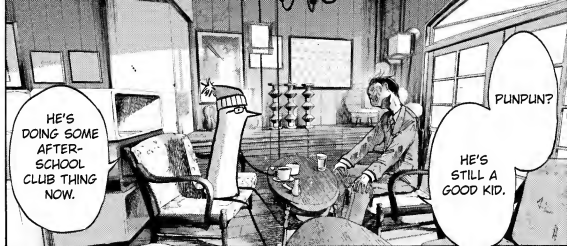
HOW
ABOUT
YOU,
YUGAMI?



BUT SHE
COMMUTES
TO THE NEXT
TOWN FOR
APPEAR-
ANCE'S
SAKE.

AND
SHE'S TELLING
THIS WEIRD LIE
ABOUT OWNING
AN APARTMENT
BUILDING IN
SETAGAYA.

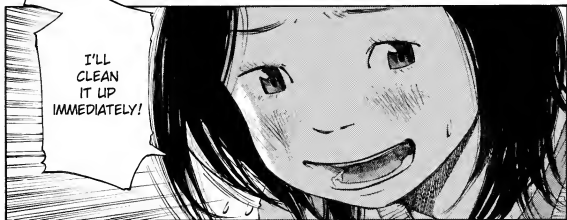
SO, MY
SISTER HAS
SETTLED
INTO HER
PART-TIME
JOB.





GEEZ!

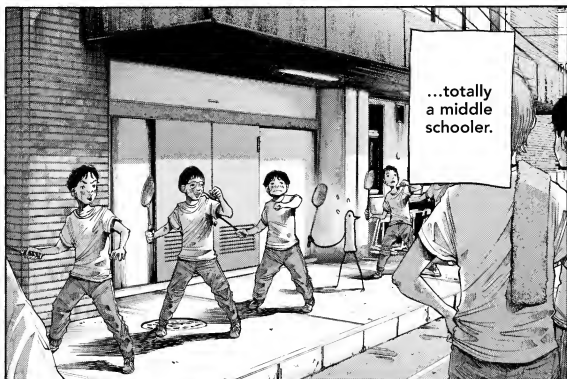
OH...!



MIDDLE SCHOOL 2



Punpun
was...





WELL, WE'LL
TALK TO THE
COACH ABOUT
IMPROVING THE
OLD TRADITIONS
THIS YEAR.

WHEN
CAN WE
GET INTO
THE GYM
AND HAVE A
MATCH?

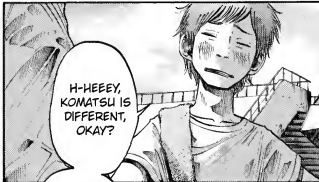
YAGUCHI
...

...WE'RE
BORED OF
PRACTICE
SWINGS...

BUT THAT
SAID, THE
BASICS ARE
IMPORTANT.
SO FOR NOW,
JUST DO
PRACTICE
SWINGS.

...IF WE'D
SAID THAT TO
UPPERCLASSMEN
WHEN WE WERE
FIRST-YEARS,
WE'D HAVE
GOTTEN THE
CRAP KICKED
OUT OF US.

YOU
GUYS
...



H-HEEY,
KOMATSU IS
DIFFERENT,
OKAY?

THAT'S
NOT
FAIR...

BUT
KOMATSU
IS
PRACTICING
WITH THE
OLDER
KIDS—



TRY
BEING
ON THE
RECEIVING
END OF HIS
SMASHES!
HE'S
SERIOUSLY
A DEMON.

But...

Punpun had joined the badminton club because Komatsu had said, "It looks like it'll be fun."



...but he decided to act like it didn't matter.

...and Punpun found it hard to take...

...without seeming to try...

...Komatsu improved...



THEY TELL ME I HAVE A SHOT AT WINNING!

I'M PLAYING IN THE NEXT PREFECTURE SINGLES TOURNAMENT!

HEY, PUNPUN!



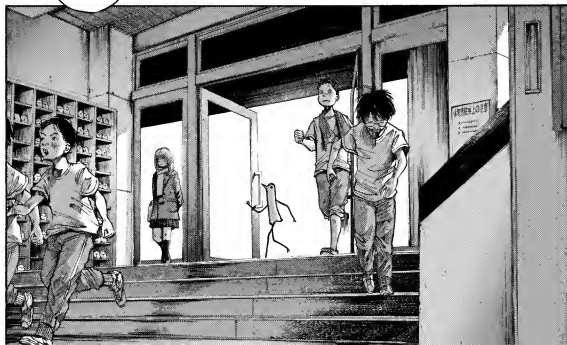
OKAAAAAY,
WE'RE DONE
FOR TODAY!

FIRST-
YEARS,
START
CLEANING
UP!



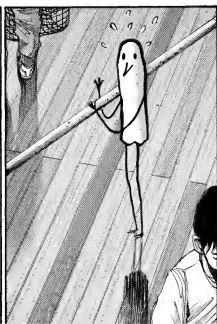
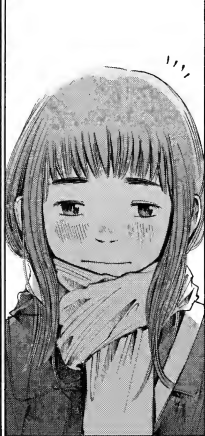
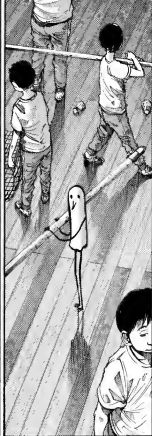
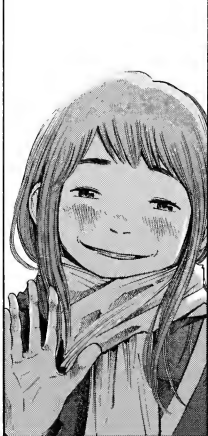
SERIOUSLY
?!

I HEAR
YAGUCHI
HAS A
HUGE DICK.





"It's
Aiko!!"





Punpun...

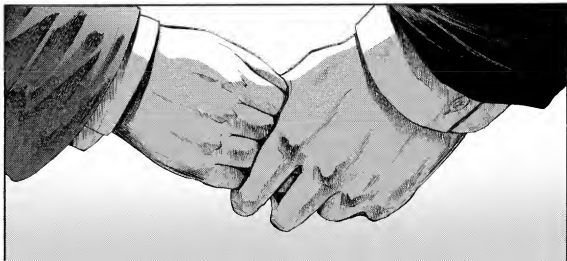
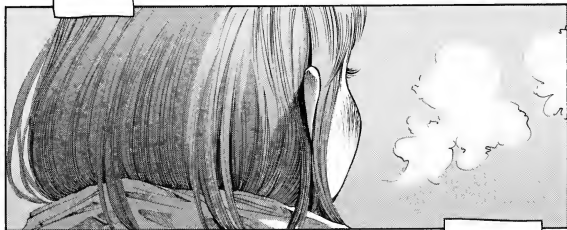
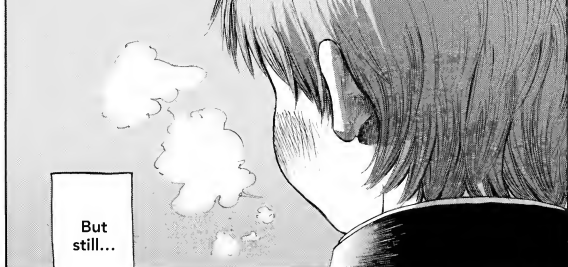


...hadn't
spoken to
Aiko once
in the
last two
years.



Their
eyes
never
even
met.







...loved
Aiko.

But still,
Punpun...

It
was
hell!!!



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Two

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Yasumasa Iwama





INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 1

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

OYASUMI PUNPUN Vol. 1, 2

by Inio ASANO

© 2007 Inio ASANO

All rights reserved.

Original Japanese edition published by SHOGAKUKAN.

English translation rights in the United States of America,

Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland arranged with

SHOGAKUKAN.

Translation ☆ JN PRODUCTIONS

Touch-Up Art & Lettering ☆ ANNALIESE CHRISTMAN

Design ☆ FAWN LAU

Editor ☆ PANCHIA DIAZ

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, March 2016



www.viz.com

VIZ SIGNATURE



PARENTAL ADVISORY

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN is rated M for Mature and is recommended for ages 18 and up. Contains violence and sexual situations.

ratings.viz.com